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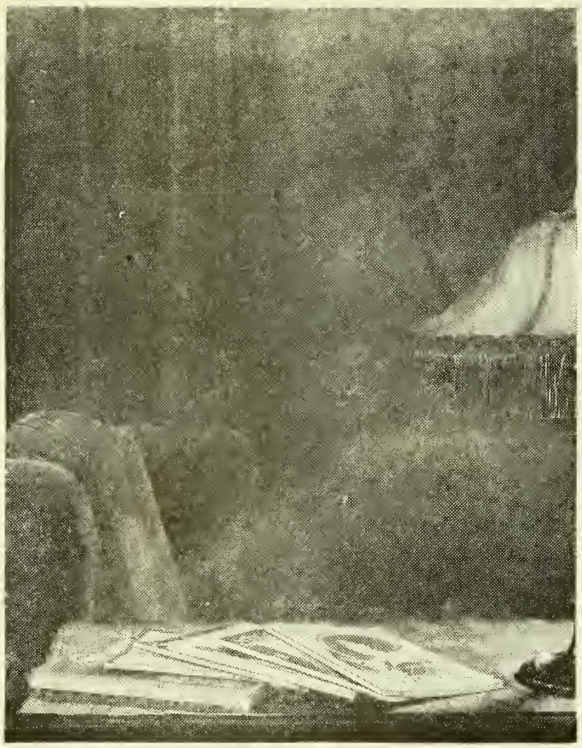
MAKERS OF AMERICA II. THE EXPLORER



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A Sequel to "Who Got the Money?"

The Profiteer Hunt

III. *The* Biggest Pay-Off *in the* World's History

By Marquis James

What Happened After the Armistice When the Government Undertook to Settle $7,500,000,000 Worth of Unfilled Contracts—A Quick but Expensive Operation That Is to Be Investigated at Last

IN the preceding article we discussed the mobilization of industry for the war. That is what we called it—a mobilization, meaning a systematic regroupment of forces to cope with the requirements of warfare. We avoided the homely term employed by one considerate government official who helped our untutored mind to grasp the major points of that intricate enterprise. We avoided it because, at the outset of our discussion, we desired to refrain from anything that might seem to imply prejudice.

In view of what has since transpired in the course of our narrative, we believe we will be absolved of intended prejudice if we quote our instructor verbatim. He referred to it as the "scrambling" of industry, and illuminated his remark by describing in the air with his lead pencil a series of circles. Mobilization is too formal a term, he said. It connotes order and method to a degree that did not exist. Scrambled, he insisted, conjures the more accurate picture of what happened.

The gentleman's statement is not difficult of corroboration. Industry *was* scrambled, and the wonder is that we came off as well as we did. With the war at our doors for nearly three years; with men flocking to civilian training camps and drill corps springing up everywhere; with a great part of American industry already in the service of the Allies; with all this come to pass, the United States Government met the inevitable issue when at last it came, with a countenance of pained surprise. The nation was utterly unprepared in the sense of having a program for the conversion of industry into an arm of defense—an arm that must sustain all others.

And so we rushed headlong and haphazard into the indefensible cost-plus contract, and are still paying the price of that prodigious folly.

Then came the end of the war and the process of demobilizing, or unscrambling, the industrial apparatus of the country. The matter was incalculably involved. All the tangles of the scrambling process carried over, and to them were added a new category of tangles peculiar to the unscrambling, all inextricably mingled. It would take a five-foot bookshelf to hold the details. We shall have to touch the peaks in a few linear inches.

The Return to Normal

THE Armistice brought an end to the industrial operations which were yielding such enormous profits due to the deficiencies of the original cost-plus contract—deficiencies the War Department strove in vain to correct. Then the overturn to normal set in, and some contractors began to realize that all that glisters is not gold; that there was a string tied to the war-time fortunes that had poured into their coffers. *Some* contractors, I say; many were not affected. But the sewing machine factory that converted itself into a plant for the manufacture of hydro-pneumatic recuperators, the phonograph works that turned out aerial bomb sights—it meant a heavy outlay for them to shift back to their peace-time jobs. I have heard of a shoe factory which took large war orders and presumably reaped great profits while the war lasted. But peace came and this factory went back to making civilian shoes, only to find its selling organization broken down and its trade mostly gone to competitors who took no war orders. It repented its war venture immediately.

There were a great many contractors who undertook to serve the Government purely on the high plane of patriotism. They were content with meager profits, and when profits were too large asked to have their contracts altered. There are instances where contractors were persuaded to undertake specific engagements as a duty to their country, realizing that when all was said and done there would be less profit in this work than in the pursuit of their normal occupations. But such transactions were a small minority of the whole. This is not said in a spirit of criticism; it is simply a part of the record.

The average contractor doubtless was proud he served his Government, as he had a right to be, but he also regarded that service from a purely commercial point of view as a very lucrative business proposition. Mighty few contracts went begging. On the other hand they were eagerly sought. Tipsters and fixers in Washington made fortunes during the war by selling advance information on the Government's requirements and by greasing the inside track for favored firms. There was no draft of industry. In the course of all our war-time dealings I have heard of but one factory being commandeered by the Government. This was a little cotton mill down South,

taken over temporarily by a perky official who wanted to display his authority. Money was lost on war contracts, unquestionably. Men will gamble on anything, and when people gamble someone always loses.

But to get down to cases. When the Armistice came the War Department alone had in operation in excess of 30,000 separate contracted engagements (one engagement sometimes involved a dozen individual contracts or amendments thereto) calling for an expenditure of approximately $7,500,000,000. Twenty-seven thousand of these contracts were of a formal and regular character. These involved $6,000,000,000. Indeed all but a few of the 27,000 contracts were so ironclad and regular that they did not even contain a cancellation clause. So great had been the confusion and so effective the influences by which the contractor always, somehow, seemed to get the better of every bargain that cancellation clauses were not uniformly introduced into contracts until the last six weeks of the war.

Still, there is a limit to which the Government may be imposed upon. A great deal has been made of the magnanimity displayed by contractors who, despite the absence of a clause to that effect, consented to cancellation and suspension of their contracts soon after the Armistice. Such conduct showed the right spirit, but any lawyer versed in such matters will tell you it was also the most profitable course for the contractors to take. No court of law or equity in the land would have held the Government to completion of those contracts after the war had ended.

The other 3,000 contracts in force at Armistice time were termed informal contracts. They obligated the Government in the sum of $1,500,000,000. Goverment officials have another name for these near-contracts. They call them "bevo" contracts. A bevo contract is at once a testimonial to the integrity of the pledged word of the Government, the desirability of war-contract work from a commercial point of view, and the willingness with which contractors waived legal technicalities in order to get such contracts and help win the war.

A bevo contract could be almost anything. The Army staffs that actually drafted contracts—the documents themselves—were always far behind in their work. A need would arise for materials—ten thousand dollars' worth of court plaster or fifty million dollars' worth of big-gun ammunition, say. By the quickest method the contracting officer would get hold of a producer. Would he turn out the stuff? He would. Fine, go ahead, we'll arrange terms later. A telegram, a scribbled memorandum, a long-distance telephone conversation, a brief interview—anything sufficed for a bevo contract.

Pretty soon after the Armistice, when the War Department was head over heels with the first processes of the unscrambling operation, along came the Comptroller of the Treasury with what former Assistant Secretary Benedict Crowell, who was directing matters, called an "absolutely stunning decision." The Comptroller said very seriously that all bevo contracts and a great number of the formal contracts were illegal and without standing before the Treasury, and that no money would be paid out in the settlement of these obligations. Now the Comptroller had just about as much chance of getting away with that as those 27,000 contractors would have had if they had tried to enforce the terms of their "uncancellable" agreements. The thing was simply inequable on its face, and all law is based on equity, or common-sense fairness. But to make everything regular Congress passed a law called the Dent Act providing relief for the holders of bevo contracts.

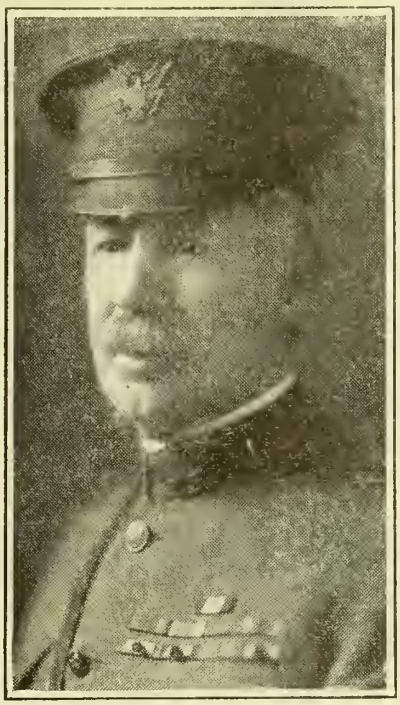
Though almost up to the very end of the war preparations went forward for a winter campaign to finish in a spring drive that was to conclude hostilities in 1919, the possibility of a cessation of active fighting before that time was not overlooked. The first official notice of such possibility was taken late in October when the Allied thrusts began to reach home. In absolute secrecy there met in Washington on a Sunday afternoon a group of high Ordnance officers at which the demobilization of that industry was discussed. An informal board was named to continue the study in secret. On November 2d, when an Armistice seemed more likely, the Ordnance Claims Board was appointed. Ordnance demobilization presented, on the whole, the most difficult problem of the unscrambling process. The procurement of such supplies constituted forty-two percent of the Army's business operations. Three million men worked in the ordnance factories.

One of the posters used by the National War Savings Committee in its campaign for the sale of War Savings Stamps. Money that went into profiteers' pockets did not come from an inexhaustible money-bin called the United States Treasury, but from the week-to-week savings of ordinary American citizens

On November 11th the termination clauses of all contracts having such clauses were enforced. Other contractors were told to stop overtime and gradually suspend. In three weeks $2,500,000,000 worth of contracts were under suspension; on most of these, however, no actual work had begun—the transactions were in the paper stage. Active contracts were tapered off more gradually. Liquidation of suspended accounts was already under way.

The liquidating organization was the War Department Claims Board. It was a vast mechanism of which the pre-Armistice Ordnance Claims Board became a part. Roughly speaking, the country was divided into districts. District boards, with the proper subsidiaries, sat in the principal cities. They received and passed upon the claims submitted by contractors within their territorial jurisdiction. The findings of the district boards went to Washington for a review by superior boards which determined the final awards.

Speed was the keynote of the Claims Board's policy of action. It prided itself on the dispatch with which it made settlements. On July 1, 1920, the board disbanded its district organizations. A central board at Washington was retained. This is still in existence. Time and again Mr. Crowell, the Assistant Secretary of War, who was chairman of the head Claims Board in Washington, urged his subordinates to work faster, to pay off the contractors with less delay and "expedite the return of capital from war work to industry." Opposition to this policy was fruitless. Claims were rushed through and single items running into hundreds of thousands of dollars paid with no investigation worthy of the name and without



Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick, chief of Air Service, who reports that a group of post-Armistice settlements in his division recently reviewed by permission of the Secretary of War show that thirty-five contractors were overpaid a total of about $40,000,000

Official photo U. S. Air Service

audit. On every hand concern was expressed for industry and for the need of helping it back to a normal state, but no such anxiety appeared to be manifest for the rights of the tax-payers from whose well-drained pockets these millions came.

The contractor had every advantage on his side during the war, and every disadvantage was shouldered by the Government. "Had the war been fought for their special benefit their gain could hardly have been greater," wrote H. L. Scaife, a special agent of the Department of Justice, in a report of his investigation of certain contractors. But that was during a war upon which we had embarked unprepared. We paid the price. But now the war was over and the blessings of peace had descended upon us. What happened? Well, from the evidence that is available, it would seem in certain instances that if these blessings had been expressly designed for the benefit of the contractors their gain could have hardly been less.

Of the Claims Board and its method of settlement the majority report of the Graham committee of the House of Representatives says, "If he (the contractor) was honest, there was an honest settlement; if he was inclined to take advantage of the Government he did so."

Eighteen months ago the present Secretary of War gave permission to the Air Service to conduct an experimental review of thirty-five Claims Board settlements and termination contracts. That work is now almost finished. The accounts have been carefully audited and Major General Mason M. Patrick, chief of Air Service, reports that the thirty-five contractors in question were overpaid about $40,000,000. After much consideration and study Secretary Weeks recently directed that every settlement made by the Claims Board should be reopened and reaudited. This is a victory for those who from the start have protested against the manner in which these settlements were made. Colonel John A. Hull has been placed in charge of this review. The appointment came as a surprise and has been criticized on the ground that Colonel Hull, who was vice-chairman of the Claims Board when many alleged questionable settlements were made, should not be required to superintend an investigation of work with which he was so intimately associated.

I do not mean to infer that the Claims Board honored at face value every demand presented by a contractor. Many claims were greatly scaled down. The claim of the Maxwell Motor Company of Detroit was reduced from $2,000,000 to $140,000. But the senior auditor who investigated the case for the Government contended at the time—and still contends as a matter of personal opinion—that this payment was $72,000 more than the company had coming.

The Maxwell case was a long-drawn-out affair. It did not come before the Washington authorities until January, 1921. Part of the delay was caused by the indictment of a government auditor stationed at Detroit. The auditor was acquitted. His friends say the indictment was the result of a conspiracy to discipline him for being too inquisitive about contractors' padded claims. In January Mr. Morrison, an auditor for the Maxwell company, came to Washington and informed Claims Board officials that the Government owed the company $2,000,000. Colonel D. M. King, administrative officer of the Ordnance Department, decided on an investigation and sent Auditor L. M. Stevens and six assistants to Detroit to take charge of the official records. Stevens found these in the company's possession and in a chaotic state. Over the protest of officials of the company he removed the records to separate offices and placed them under government lock and key.

Mr. Stevens then requested the Maxwell company to submit the proper vouchers and other documents showing the basis of the $2,000,000 which Mr. Morrison had claimed to be due from the Government. Vouchers totaling only $968,000 were submitted. Mr. Stevens proceeded to audit these, checking each against previous payments made to the company and against the terms of the contracts. This audit eliminated all but $68,000 which Stevens declared to be all the Government owed to the Maxwell company. Mr. Morrison then wrote Mr. Stevens reducing the claim from $968,000 to $415,000.

The company immediately began a new line of approach, however. Morrison and an attorney for the company went to Washington and presented a written claim for $715,000. They were told to redraft it on the regular Ordnance forms. When this was done the claim—which never seems to appear twice in the same amount—totaled $688,000. The War Department sent a special board of former Claims Board officials to Detroit to look into the matter. The head of the board was Colonel John A. Hull. This was in September, 1921. In November the board settled for about $140,000.

Representations were made to Secretary Weeks, however, and he held up payment of this amount while the Department of Justice investigated the question of alleged attempted fraud. The investigation was conducted by J. J. Lenihan, assistant to the Attorney

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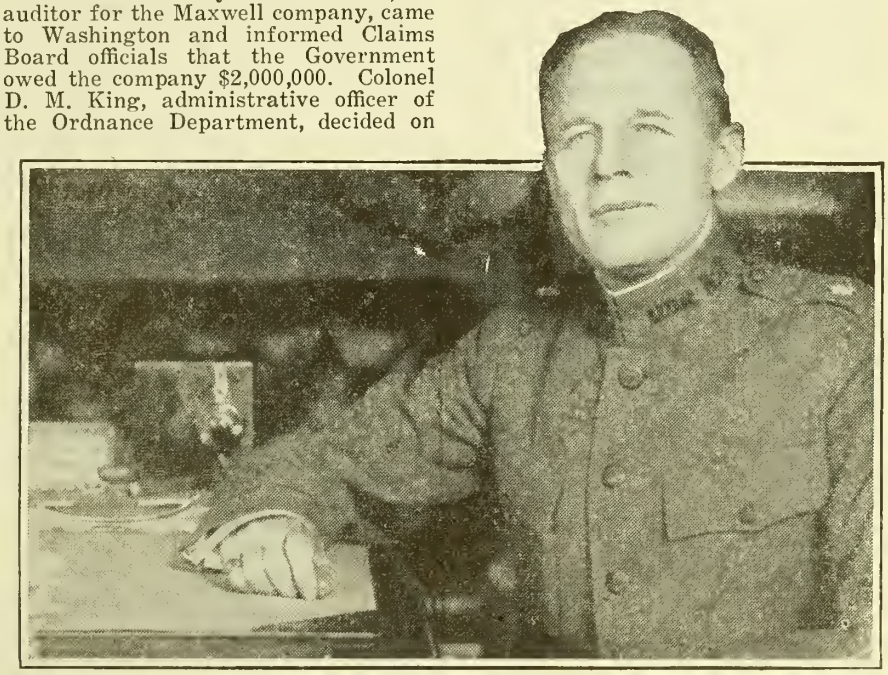

© Harris and Ewing, from Paul Thompson

Benedict Crowell, wartime Assistant Secretary of War, who, as chairman of the chief Claims Board in Washington, urged his subordinates to pay off contractors with less delay and "expedite the return of capital from war work to industry"

Where Everyone's a Millionaire

How the Average Russian Contrives to Adapt His Personal Budget to the Dizzy Antics of the Rouble

By Arthur Ruhl

THE first thing I heard on arriving in Moscow was the voice of a young lady who had hurried out of our train to engage a cab, calling back to her mother:

"I can't get anything for less than seven millions!"

One soon gets used to such language, but of course it is odd at first. The rouble at that time was worth about two and a half millions to the dollar, so that the *izvoschik* was not, after all, so much of a bandit as you might think.

Americans, I find, on seeing a bit of Soviet paper—and very good-looking money it is—smile incredulously when told that it represents a million or five million roubles and sometimes say, "But of course the Russians don't really use such money. They must get along without money altogether."

On the contrary, they use it just as we use our money, and provided they only have enough of it they get along quite passably.

The rouble was "stabilized" last summer for nearly six months. That is to say, it did not depreciate in any startling fashion for that length of time and one began to read editorials and hear arguments based on the fact that "now the rouble is stabilized," and so on. When the crop was all in, however (in the summer of 1921 there was a similar pause of about two months), and the total amount of bread for the next year was known, and it was not so much as the early forecasts had prophesied, the price of bread began rapidly to rise and the value of the rouble to drop. By last fall it had reached twenty million to the dollar.

With the medium of exchange in such grotesque figures there are various devices for making talk about prices simpler. The cabmen, for instance, always talked in millions—when an *izvoschik* said three he meant three millions. In the early summer he often said three lemons, which meant the same thing. By this time, doubtless, he has some new slang. In restaurants and grocery stores, on the other hand, several more ciphers were added, and if you saw a ticket marked "1,200" on a sausage or a cheese in delicatessen shop window, you were to understand that that meant that it could be bought for 1,200,000 roubles a pound. The government itself followed a similar custom in printing its money, and in the issues of 1922 simply lopped off five ciphers and then added, in a phrase printed on the back of each bill, that one was supposed to multiply its face value by 10,000. Thus a five million rouble note bore the denomination "500."

It was not necessary, therefore, as many assume, to carry round trunks full of money in order to get about. One simply carried bills with bigger figures. The smallest denomination in circulation at the time I left Moscow was 25,000 roubles, and these were so little thought of that one frequently saw them trampled under foot. Street car fare was 500,000 in the daytime and a million after ten o'clock at night. And even at this price the cars were so packed that during the rush hours it was all but impossible to fight one's way aboard.

In the spring, when the rouble stood two and a half million to the dollar, rye bread cost about 150,000 roubles a pound in the Moscow markets, or about six cents. The lowest sort of factory laborer was getting at that time, for example, somewhere in the neighborhood of ten or eleven millions a month. Highly skilled workers from the same institution (I am quoting wages paid at that time in a Moscow factory) were paid an equivalent of about 53,000,000 roubles, a part of which was paid in the *payok* or food ration. Translated into terms of rye or "black" bread, the manual laborer got about two pounds of bread a day and the skilled laborer about ten pounds. That is to say, the manual laborer could keep himself alive on what he earned; the skilled workman could theoretically feed himself and his family.

Rye bread was the cheapest food there was in Moscow (in some of the famine districts where animals were killed because there was nothing to feed them, meat was cheaper than bread); white bread was much more expensive, although its comparative cost decreased later in the year until there was plenty of white bread in Moscow. And as soon as one started to buy meat or milk, butter, cheese, sugar, fruit or such luxuries as chocolate or cocoa, a month's wages disappeared very quickly indeed. Shoes and clothing were even more terrifying—indeed, for many almost out of the question.

The prices per pound in September in Moscow, when the rouble had dropped to about six million to the dollar were: Beef, 1,200,000; black bread, 110,000 (less than in the spring, although the rouble was worth only one third as much); white bread, 550,000; butter, 3,000,000; sugar, 1,600,000; cheese, 2,500,000; coffee, 5,000,000; tea, 10,000,000. The same commodities in November, when the rouble had dropped to 18,000,000 to 20,000,000 to the dollar, were: Beef, 1,800,000; white bread, 1,800,000; black bread, 400,000; butter, 6,500,000; sugar, 4,000,000; cheese, 5,000,000; coffee, 14,000,000; tea, 18,000,000.

For Americans, naturally, things were cheap, and in some places in the provinces, which were almost always a bit behind Moscow in following the drops in exchange, extremely so, but on the whole, considering the grotesque position of the rouble, they were not so cheap as one might offhand think. Real prices are surprisingly the same whatever the amount of paper issued, and the rough adjustment to a gold basis soon follows. The September prices quoted above, translated into American terms, would have been: Beef, 20 cents a pound; white bread, about 9 cents; butter, about 50 cents; sugar, about 25 cents; cheese, about 41 cents; coffee, about 80 cents; tea, about $1.60.

When you ask where the *Russians* get the millions for these things out of their meagre salaries and wages; how it comes that the markets are always packed with purchasers, the theatres well filled night after night, the streetcars jammed to the rails with passengers at a half million a ride, the answer is difficult. Indeed, there are various answers.

One is that they don't. Thousands of

(*Continued on page* 18)

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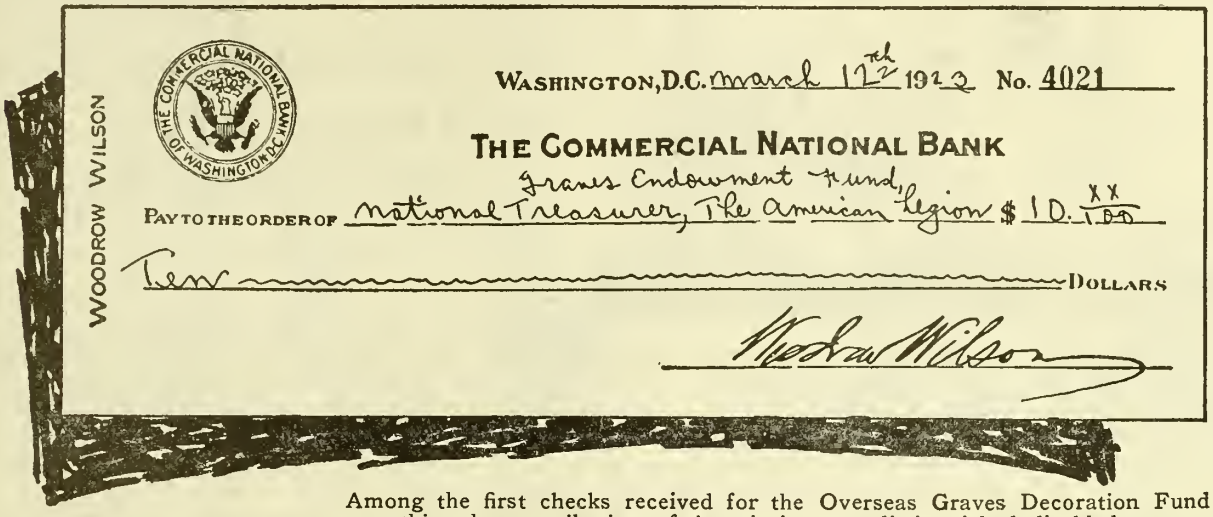
WITH every shipload of immigrants into America the problem of American education grows more complex. There are industrial interests in this country to whom the standards of American citizenship are as nothing compared with the profits possibly to be wrung from an unrestricted importation of cheap labor, and those interests are already setting on foot their propaganda for the lowering of the bars against immigration. There is a scarcity of labor, they say. And this in spite of the fact that a national employment census just completed by the national Americanism commission of The American Legion shows over a quarter of a million workmen unemployed in America today. Why, not long ago there was a snowstorm in New York City and a hurry call was sent out for jobless men to clear the streets of snow. And in this one city, in one half-day, for a makeshift job of a few hours, no less than twenty thousand men reported. One would think that such an event shows labor cheap enough for anybody, and a sharp condition of unemployment still unrelieved. Against any increase in immigration for the present, The American Legion stands committed to unalterable opposition. There must be no more immigration to flood this country while yet an American education is lacking to any resident upon our soil. We do not want to be Europeanized, we do not intend to be Balkanized, and we have built a wall as a notice to the world of that determination. That strong army of defense and protection must not be torn down.—*National Commander* ALVIN OWSLEY, *in an address recently delivered before the Department of Superintendence, National Education Association, Cleveland.*

Paying *the* Debt *of* Reverence



Among the first checks received for the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund was this—the contribution of America's most distinguished disabled veteran

AS these lines are written, a flood tide of contributions to The American Legion's permanent Graves Endowment Fund is pouring into the office of the National Treasurer in Indianapolis. Letters began arriving from every part of the country within a few days after the publication of the announcement in The American Legion Weekly of March 9th that the Legion would raise at least $100,000 before May 30th to insure that the 32,000 American graves in Europe will be decorated forever on each Memorial Day.

The letters received come from posts named after soldiers who lie buried in every European cemetery, from posts named after the towns they serve, from Legionnaires, from non-Legionnaires, from a sister and mother who still mourn, from a former Army nurse who knows what sacrifice is, from busy citizens who have read stray copies of the Weekly, from scores of others.

All express one feeling—the desire to honor those who are still in uniform, in orderly formation, under the American flag—our dead who hold the post of honor in France and Belgium and England. All recognize gratefully our common duty.

In its last issue the Weekly listed the contributions received during the first few days after the publication of the first announcement. With the balance carried over from last year's annual fund, these contributions totaled $6,626.32. In this issue appears a list of additional contributions testifying to the whole country's participation (see page 20). But the mere names and addresses of the donors and the amounts they have given reflect only partly the wonderful spirit which the Legion's call has set flaming in the nation. That spirit is expressed devoutly, happily, in the letters accompanying the contributions.

A disabled veteran sent a dollar from Potsdam, New York, apologizing because "in doing this bit toward remembering our buddies who went West" he was restricted by the amount of his vocational training pay, which "does not allow much for incidentals."

Mrs. Charles G. Swan of Columbus, Ohio, sent a contribution in the name of her brother, who lies in Belleau Wood cemetery—one of the eight European cemeteries in which the 32,000 American dead are buried.

From New York City came this letter: "I note that the Legion is raising a fund for the decoration of overseas graves. While I have differed with the policy of the Legion on a number of points, this is an occasion where I can lend my hearty support, and I am inclosing my check for five dollars."

Wherever Legionnaires heard the appeal they responded. A traveling salesman for oil-well supplies pinned some greenbacks to the letterhead of a hotel in Stamford, Tex. An advertising man in Chicago; a colonel of the Regular Army in Virginia; a former A. E. F. captain of Engineers, now a mining engineer at Kellogg, Ida.; an oil inspector of the State of Iowa, a garage man in Jerome, Arizona; a railroad telegrapher at Rosedale, Indiana; a roofing dealer of Reading, Pennsylvania—these were early contributors. Physicians in Mt. Upton, New York, Closter, New Jersey, and St. Paul, Minnesota, thrust bills into small envelopes used for pills or attached them to prescription slips.

Not only individual Legionnaires have been quick to respond—posts also have sent in early contributions. A single mail brought $25 from Ft. Harrison Post of Terre Haute, Indiana, $100 from Henry H. Houston Post of Philadelphia, $50 from Palmer Ketmer, Jr., Post of Gallup, New Mexico, $5 from Franklin (Pennsylvania) Post and $25 from Weston (West Virginia) Post. These posts are among those which voted contributions from the post treasuries or raised them by subscription at a post meeting. Most posts, however, at this writing are still systematically planning to make their contributions. They have appointed committees to collect the individual contributions of their members and citizens of their community. As these local efforts are completed, the Graves Endowment Fund should each day gain larger and larger sums.

At this moment, however, a note of warning against overconfidence must be given to the whole Legion. The Legion is a large organization and there are still fifty-four days remaining before Memorial Day, but it is important that posts send in their contributions as early as they can. Do not wait. If your post contribution has been raised, send it in now. Follow it up with the contributions which citizens of your community wish to make. Every contribution of one dollar or more will be acknowledged in the Weekly.

It cannot take for granted that the fund will be raised easily. No matter how worthy this cause, $100,000 constitutes a large sum to be obtained by voluntary offerings in a comparatively short time. The first announcement of the Graves Endowment Fund was published in The American Legion Weekly of March 9th. From March 9 to May 30 is eighty-two days by the calendar—eighty-two days in which to raise at least $100,000. The average daily amount for these eighty-two days must be $1,219.50—almost a dollar for every minute. In reality, the average daily total of the contributions for the final period

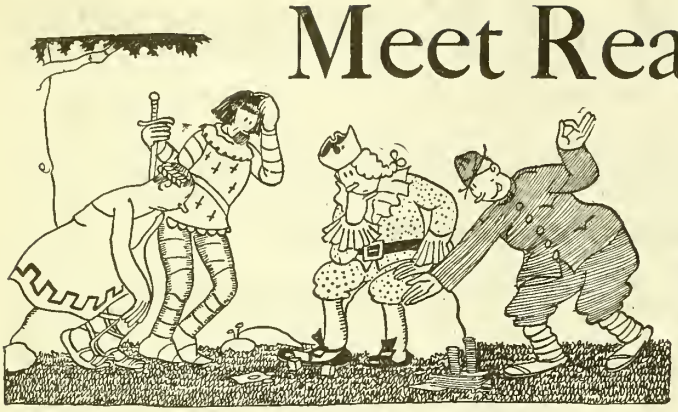
(*Continued on page* 20)

WITH A FIVE-DOLLAR BILL

(*A Letter Received by the National Treasurer of the Legion*)

HOW grateful I am that I picked up and read this notice in The American Legion Weekly. I want to give my mite in thankfulness to this tribute that mothers may know that their sons are not forgotten over there, and I thank my Heavenly Father that he has sent back my son. May other mothers give thanks in this way for their sons that have been sent back home.—A GRATEFUL MOTHER, *Pittsfield, Mass.*

Meet Readem *and* Weep



The archives of history record the fact that the freckled ivories are the oldest gaming instruments

They Were the Sport of Kings Ages Before They Ever Hit the Company Street

By John A. Level

WHEN us bucks rolled Mississippi marbles on Germain terrain we thought we were stepping out a little and showing Fritz some gambling jazz. But Tacitus, the historian, claims Jerry himself shook a wicked pair of Liberian checkers ages ago, back in the days when they went to war because there was no place else to go. The Heinies would even stake their personal liberty or their "Gott mit uns" belt on a flip of the African aggots. After Cæsar crossed the Rubicon, Fritz quit dicing and took up another branch of warfare, using the slogan "Deutschland über alles" instead of "seven come eleven."

The archives of history record the fact that freckled ivories are the oldest gaming instruments. Faces on the clickers now are the same as on those unearthed at Thebes, opposite sides being—when added—equal. There is no country where the cube root of evil is not known. All armies since Adam's heyday have toyed with the dominoes. Rookies of all ages have made the sad mistake of trying to master the vest-pocket blackjacks the first day in o. d.

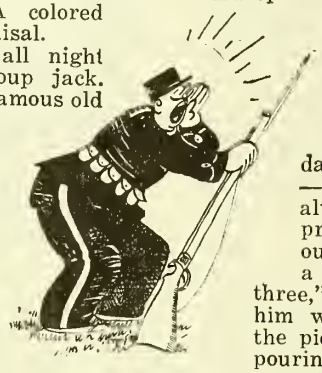
History doesn't say so, but somehow the twin pellets found a haven in ancient Greece, classic Rome and the Far East. Verily, alley tennis was a favorite pastime in the days when battles closed at sundown.

Sophocles ascribed the game to Palmades, a Greek, more than likely a doughboy on bunk fatigue duty, but most of the ancients accredited—or rather, discredited—the invention to the occult. Even when Greek met Greek back there, they started a fight, a restaurant, a hat-cleaning emporium, or a crap game. Pal first shot for a natural during the siege of Troy, according to history. Herodotus, ace of historians, relates that Lydiaus perfected the bones during a period of famine.

Mark Antony wasted his time at Alexandria with dicing, according to Suetonius, and Emperors Nero and Claudius were passionately fond of tossing the spotted squares. Nero made the big clean-up of the Roman period. Nero usually won when toying with animated celluloid; that is why we hear the expression nowadays, "When you play you must pay the fiddler." Nero fiddled while Rome burned and perhaps shot dice while his fiddle was consumed by flames. Many a buck to this day starts with a few jits in his jeans to "build Rome."

Claudius went so far as to write a book on knucklebones, which was too much even for the long-suffering Romans. Caligula notoriously cheated. For a long time it was thought Cal was the first beetle to use loaded indoor golf balls, but a pair was recently unearthed in Babylon. It is said that the archæologist who discovered them didn't know what they were. A colored servant made the appraisal.

Varus threw cubes all night and squandered beaucoup jack. Perhaps some of those famous old lawmakers were sent to the bullpen for starting games with spotted squares contrary to bulletins appearing athwart the top cutter's pyramidal abode. And if so thereby gained their early training as guardhouse lawyers.



The first Frenchman that saw a Yank payday set-to called out the guard

Skippers of those days were continually barring dicing, claiming that soldats were not giving the proper time to taming their charges and honing spears. But any officer, ancient or modern, correspondence-school or regular, will say that a crap game is harder to break up than the tide. They come around oftener, too.

When knighthood was in flower dicing was a rare art, same as in our cantonment days. But here's the rub—there were dicing schools then. Instead of getting sent down the line to a cooking or bombing school, wouldn't it be soft for a bird to get detailed to dicing headquarters to study the secrets of the southern jewels? And return to the lines and toss the trouble-makers with the first sergeant to see if it was a furlough to Paris or a kitchen detail?

This brings us in history right down to the Europe of today, where some of the cuckoos think more of their souvenir transparent Yank dice than of soup bones, scarce as these are.

Europeans play hazard, an old game of French origin, in which most of the betting takes place after the caster's point has been thrown.

The first Frenchman that saw a Yank payday set-to, so the story runs—seems like stories are always in a hurry—an interpreter with our forces, called out the guard when he heard a buck shout, "shoot the three," "he hits for five," "get him while they're warm," "kill the piece" and other verbal outpourings familiar to all those who have toted packs.

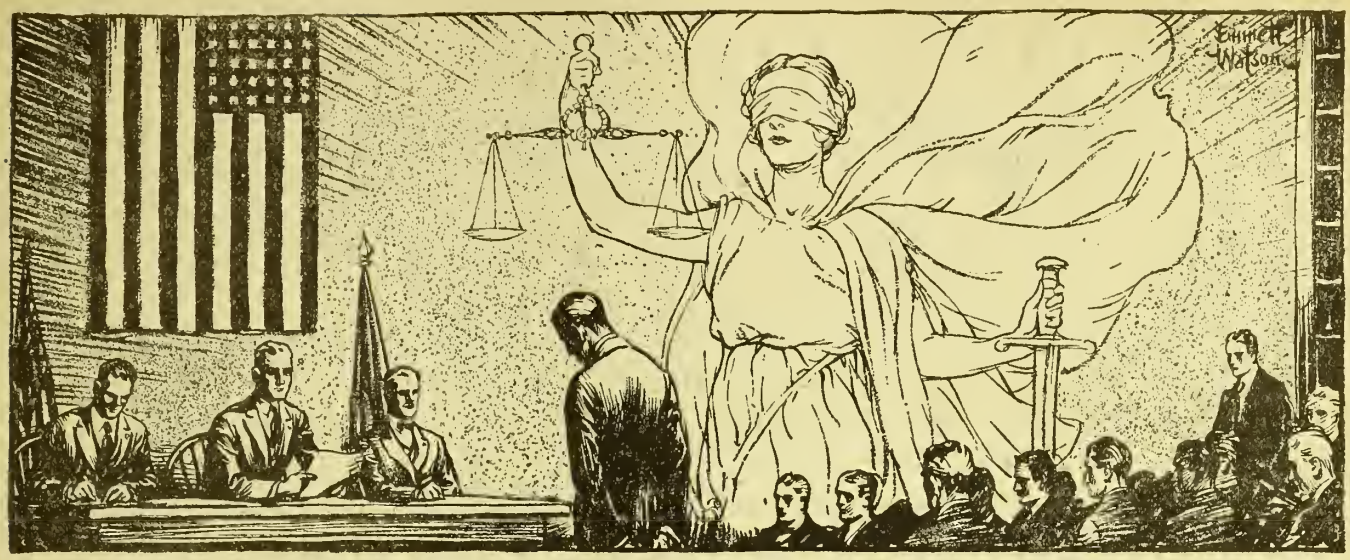
Our game was patterned after hazard, which Sir Walter Raleigh introduced in Virginia. Walt started something. Where there's smoke there's fire and Ral took home the weed. He left the fire in the form of cubes. The Yanks called the game craps. The origin of the name "craps" is harder to trace than a newly-washed o. d. shirt purloined from a tent rope.

The American negro was the first to shoot the ivory chips from the hand, says one book on the history of dicing. The dice box was used down the ages. The old adage about the hand being quicker than the eye was born during a crap game.

Our Yank army soon took up the now famous pastime and carried on. Dicing has always been popular with doughboys, right down from Bunker Hill to Hoboken. Enough dice were used in the World War to pave the Lincoln Highway.

Musing on the speckled hand grenades, one wonders how much lucre has changed hands since the first caster—back, perhaps, in the Garden of Eden—rattled forth the mystic twin immensities and muttered in his own tongue, against his better judgment, "Readem and weep."

Rookies of all ages have made the mistake of trying to master the vest-pocket blackjacks the first day in o.d.



How *to* Get Out *of the* Legion

What the New National By-Laws Have to Say

By Philip Von Blon

A GOOD way to get out of The American Legion is to get into a penitentiary. But if you are decent and honest, as those qualities are rated among people generally, you will find it rather hard to get out of the Legion once you have been accepted and initiated—that is, unless you resign.

We may part our hair any way we wish, wear Palm Beach clothing in zero weather if we want to, or annoy our friends with whatever personal eccentricities we happen to possess, but so long as our idiosyncrasies do not constitute offenses against the moral code or those statutes connoting turpitude we can still hold up our heads as Legionnaires in good standing. But the privilege of membership in the Legion carries with it certain obligations of conduct which cannot be violated. The Legion reserves the right to give the metaphorical gate to members who have lost their balance on the tight rope of rectitude which most of us manage to walk in our private and public lives. The Legion reserves the right to kick undesirables out of its ranks.

Up to the time of the New Orleans convention we had a pretty good understanding among ourselves to the effect that a good Legionnaire was synonymous with a good citizen. We had placed our collective hands upon the coat collars of sundry and assorted crooks found masquerading in our organization and had cast them outside it. Every organization has experiences of that character. We had not spared our own feelings when it became necessary to protect the Legion's good name by stripping the button from the lapel of the unworthy. But there had been no uniformity of procedure in the way of doing it. We simply used the most effective means at hand, and sometimes, to our discomfiture, we found a disreputable party who had been expelled from one post bobbing up as a member of another post and repeating the offense for which we had previously rated him as undesirable.

At New Orleans we devised a membership code which plugged up some of the defects experience had revealed. We amended the Legion's National Constitution and adopted a set of By-Laws and in so doing we defined the power and methods which should be used in dealing with unworthy members, and against unworthy posts as well. This new national law of the Legion is strict but just.

The first thing we did, in adopting this new code, was to establish the principle that a man once accepted and initiated becomes a member of the Legion for life. We stipulated, incidentally, that he could be a member of only one post at a time. He may lapse in the payment of his dues, however, and thereby become a member in bad standing. In that case he would nevertheless continue to be a member of the Legion until he resigns or is expelled for non-payment of his dues. This principle was our starting point. The convention went further. One section of the new By-Laws it adopted is as follows:

> Members may be suspended or expelled from the Legion only upon a proper showing of cause. Charges shall be based upon *disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty and conduct unbecoming a member of The American Legion.* All charges must be made under oath, in writing, by the accusers, and no member in good standing shall lose his membership until given a fair trial in such manner and form as the department by-laws and department executive committee shall prescribe.
>
> Any member who has been suspended or expelled has the right of appeal to his department executive committee, or to the department convention, according to the provisions of the by-laws of such department. The decision of the department shall be final.

At the same time that we adopted the section just quoted we established another principle having an important bearing on it. Another section specifies that each post shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the Legion's Constitution and By-Laws. This means that a post shall not only have the right to pass judgment on its actual members, but shall also determine whom it will accept for membership. In theory this provision would exclude from membership those who might be considered so undesirable that they would be liable to expulsion if they were already members. But this consideration is not the all-important one, for the right of each post to determine its own membership is without restriction. Many posts have decided for themselves that their membership shall be based on geographical or occupational qualifications. A post may be composed entirely of doctors, for instance. Another post may have only members who are employed in one factory. The right to draw such membership lines was recognized by the New Orleans convention, although in practice the overwhelming majority of posts will continue to be all-embracing in their membership. Particularly is this true in smaller cities and towns, where all the service men of the World War usually belong to a single post.

This present year must furnish proof of the fairness and workability of the disciplinary procedure set forth above. This part of the basic law of the Legion was designed not only as an instrument of justice to the Legion but also as a guarantee of justice to the individual who may be accused. It clearly provides the means by which the un-

(*Continued on page* 14)

EDITORIAL

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.—*Preamble to Constitution of The American Legion.*

All We Are and All We Have

It is a fearful thing to lead this great, peaceful people into war—into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance.

But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free.

To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other.—*Conclusion of President Wilson's special message to Congress, April 2, 1917.*

ON April 6, 1917, following the adoption of a joint Congressional resolution, President Wilson issued a proclamation that "a state of war exists between the United States and the Imperial German Government." Six years is a long time. Children then unborn are now at school. Youths all too youthful to step out in uniform alongside older brothers are matured members of the adult community. Girls who were looking forward to the daisy chains and white dresses of high school graduation are matrons. Five million young men who were welded into a fighting machine that was soon to compare with the perfected human armaments of embattled Europe—much might be said of what they are today; suffice it that more than one hundred thousand of them are dead, that many hundred thousand more carry some physical or mental scar of their service, that all of them who are alive wear the spiritual marks of their experience along with a glorious and dearly-bought memory. And it was all—for what?

In the first place, for victory. That, after all, was the fundamental objective of the war, and it was won. The Imperial German Government was put out of business. The Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Government was put, if possible, even further out of business. Two great dynasties were reduced to the ranks of humanity, and in their stead rose two governments which may legitimately if feebly call themselves democracies. Other nations were carved out of them and set up as going concerns—Czecho-Slovakia, perhaps the happiest experiment of all; Poland and the little cluster of Baltic states; Serbia, completely overrun during the war, now a larger geographical unit than she has ever been in her history, and for the first time almost a true political and racial unit of Jugoslav peoples. And while that "concert of free peoples" for which President Wilson hoped is still to be perfected, there is before us the appeal of President Harding for participation in a world tribunal—an appeal on which American public opinion will have an opportunity to express itself before the new Congress comes into being. French troops hold the Ruhr, Russia is in chaos, Greece and Turkey are unhappy, Austria is the world's foremost bankrupt—things might be better, but they might equally be worse. Since the war the world has stood still, has perhaps slid a little bit backward; the hopeful man may now detect signs that it is resuming its normal forward motion.

In part, therefore, we have won the objectives which the President outlined in his war address. How about the rest of the bargain? Read the final paragraph of the quotation at the top of this column. Did we really dedicate to the task of righting the world's wrongs "our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have"? Most of us did. Some of us did not. You are reading about some who did not in the series of articles by Marquis James now running in the Weekly under the title "The Profiteer Hunt."

Two weeks ago the Weekly quoted a paragraph from President Harding's inaugural address urging the adoption of a universal service act to apply in time of war to labor, industry, capital and man-power alike. "Not one penny of war profit," he said, should "inure to the benefit of private individual, corporation or combination, but all above the normal shall flow into the defense chest of the nation." It was unquestionably such a universal spirit of sacrifice which President Wilson envisaged in his war address. But the machinery to put it into effect was lacking, and that machinery could not be built overnight. Even had the will been there, there was lacking an organized plan to make that will operative.

Last fall at New Orleans The American Legion approved the draft of a universal service act which specifically outlined a method for putting "everything that we are and everything that we have" at the nation's disposal in the stress of war. If we had had such a plan six years ago, there would be no need today for an adjustment of compensation for the men who truly sacrificed, no need of a War Claims Board to re-audit war contracts, no need of a series of articles on profiteer hunts.

A whole people working together for victory on a common plane of sacrifice—that is the inspiring vision which the Legion would call into actuality if the blight of war ever again came upon us.

Kind Words for the Poppy

IN a recent article in this magazine on the official Legion flower, Walter Prichard Eaton quoted Dr. U. P. Hedrick of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station as a competent authority who sees "little danger of the poppy becoming pestiferous in America." More than a year ago the Weekly asked Secretary of Agriculture Henry C. Wallace if there were any likelihood of the poppy's running wild, with resulting damage to crops, in the event of its widespread use in the decoration of graves or as a garden flower. Secretary Wallace replied:

> It is the view of the specialists of the Department that in ordinary garden culture, such as the poppy has had in this country for approximately three hundred years, there is little danger of its becoming a troublesome weed. On the other hand, should it be indiscriminately scattered along roadsides, fence rows, and in grain fields there is a possibility that it might become locally troublesome in some sections.

There is every prospect that this will be a poppyful spring. By the same token, there are likely to arise protests against the poppy based on the belief, which originated apparently soon after the war, that it is likely to become a pest. The Weekly is therefore glad to republish these iron clad official statements supporting the innocence of the Legion's official flower.

If, as the political observers predict, we are soon to have a soldier President, the candidate put forward by Private Cognac Lew Owen, late 165th Infantry, is the man who finds that his uniform still fits him.

French actresses must henceforth appear on the stage wearing something more impervious than a Gallic air, and the long-hoped-for drop in the cost of living in Paris has doubtless already set in with a decline in seat prices at the Folies Bergère.

A. E. F. Flashbacks

By Wallgren

Keeping Step With the Legion

Address all communications to this department to The Stepkeeper, National Headquarters Bureau, The American Legion Weekly, Indianapolis, Indiana

Radio

WHO says this radio is an experiment? J. Burt Pratt Post of Virginia, Minnesota, doesn't, anyway. A. R. Hulbut, post publicity officer, from whom you've heard before, has a message, hereby offered for your consideration, which seems to put radio up in the class of things that need special financing. Partly for the means of financing, partly because of the suggestion for amplification of radio activity by the Legion, the letter fascinated the Stepkeeper, who would like to hear more facts and opinions on the subject. Here's Comrade Hulbut's message:

About a year ago members of the post agitated for a complete radio outfit. At that time radio was in its infancy and was not proving satisfactory, but we discovered that the dissatisfaction was due to operators rather than sets. Still the post did not feel like buying the outfit at that time owing to the uncertainty of the proposition, but permission was given to finance the thing through Legion members, although not directly from the post treasury. This is how it was done:

Three hundred shares of stock were issued to sell at one dollar a share. Any member could buy up to five shares. After enough shares were sold we bought an outfit and a radio club was formed. The post then agreed to take up the shares at their face value, merely transferring them into dues accounts. This was not done all at once; in fact, it is being done only as the post gets money enough in its treasury so it can spare the dues, but the members of the radio club know that eventually the post will repay them for their stock. Although we have no radio in the club at present, we are not worrying, because we only got rid of the old one to buy a better one.

I would recommend the above procedure to any post, and have no hesitancy in stating that radio will make the post clubrooms a greater gathering place than ever. We in Virginia had the opportunity to hear a snappy talk by Department Adjutant Stafford King by radio just a few days ago, the significance of this being that eventually every Legion post will have a set and we will find it possible to have a Legion radio night throughout the country, and can open our meetings with talks from national as well as department officers while we are sitting right in our own clubrooms.

I have often thought of a National Headquarters broadcasting station at Indianapolis, which I believe would do more to advertise the Legion than any other medium. Such a station would now reach over a million people and would eventually mean a radio in every Legion post. Imagine a night, known as "Legion Meeting Night" throughout the United States, when every post would meet and could hear a message from the National Commander.

How near is the Legion to Mr. Hulbut's idea of radio in every post? Probably nobody can answer that question, but probably almost everybody can offer some plan for promoting the idea—and the cons can enter the discussion as well as the pros.

On Our Way

HAVING called for information about ways and means of getting to the Fifth National Convention in San Francisco next fall, the Stepkeeper was somewhat abashed when J. H. Coates of Theodore Bozann Post of Moberly, Missouri, dropped him a note calling attention to a vital omission: The Stepkeeper (or anybody else, for that matter) had never announced the dates for the San Francisco Convention. Investigation was started. And here's an announcement:

The Fifth National Convention *probably* will be held on October 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th of this year. Note that word "probably."

Aside from Mr. Coates, about half a dozen fellows wrote in to *ask* information about the convention, but everybody did us wrong when it came to *supplying* information. Wherefore a great scurrying among recent Legion News Service releases. Information had been requested on ways and means. Two of the best examples were found in Oklahoma Department news releases. Here they are:

Oklahoma City Post has started a membership drive. The post will pay Pullman and hotel expenses to the National Convention at San Francisco in October for the man securing the most renewals or new members. After the drive is ended a drawing will be held to which every member will be eligible, the lucky man also to have his expenses paid to San Francisco. The post commander sent a personal letter to every member who had not renewed, together with a check for $3 made out to the post, a self-addressed envelope and an application for new member.

Other posts are planning to pay expenses of one or more men to the department convention at Lawton to be held next August or September.

That was one; here's the other:

Donaldson-Walker Post, Cushing, believes it pays to be good. They accepted an invitation to attend church in a body. During service, an offering of $55 was taken and turned over to the post's San Francisco band fund, to take the band to the National Convention. Many members of the post have pledged $25 each to build a post home, according to C. D. Phelps, Adjutant.

There's a start on convention ideas. Who'll bring on the next?

Movie Don'ts

WHEN the subject of "How to Run a Post Movie" first came up for discussion on this page, it never occurred to the Stepkeeper that one of the first replies would be in the nature of a letter on "How Not to Run a Post Movie." But such was the case. And here's the reply, from Erwin C. Cary, publicity officer of Joseph Gosz Post of Reedsville, Wisconsin, a post that advertises itself as "not the largest, but one of the live ones."

Don't bind your post down to one film exchange.

Don't sign or contract for too many bookings—a month in advance is plenty.

Don't be afraid to howl on bum films or service or you will be S. O. L.

Don't kill the game by having too many shows—once to twice a week.

Don't overcharge.

Don't let them soak you on the price.

Don't overdo the slide end of the game.

Don't fail to vary the kind of pictures shown.

Don't buy a second-hand machine—like a second-hand automobile, sometimes they do and sometimes they don't. A new machine is the cheapest in the long run.

Mr. Carey appends these "Do's":

If none of your members understands the game, get a good operator for a time until one of your members can be broke in.

Start your shows on time.

Films have a price according to the size of the town. Our operator, Arwin Otto, is an old movie man and hard-boiled, and so uses the film man rough, and thereby saves us several hundred dollars a year. Here is his rule: A film man calls on you and offers you a picture. He is working on commission, therefore, it is up to him to get all he can get. Divide his price by two, if he asked $36, that would be $18. If he is still anxious to sign, you again divide by two, which would make $9. He will now look as though he had lost all his friends; add about $5 to this amount and you will have about what you should pay for your picture, $14, instead of the original $36 which you would have paid if you were not on to the ropes.

Our banner nights were when we showed "Ten Nights in a Bar Room," which amounted to $199.95, and "From the Manger to the Cross," which brought in $97.50. The first was at 15 and 35 cents a head, and the second at 10 and 25 cents.

A Poetical Private *and* Some Others

Well, What About the Major?

THE only reason for relating this is that it happened to happen.

In the spring of '19 I was one of a group of several thousand war-weary youths whose one dominating desire was to give the Army the air. Personally, if half of what lieutenants and sergeants had told me concerning my value to the army—or anything else—were true, there was no rational reason why Uncle Sam should longer need me. The war was over, the home celebration all set, and I was raring to go. You know the feeling.

Now it happened that a first lieutenant (I shall call him A. G. Fordney), a Regular Army officer, was attached to our company. He was much in love with a fair brunette—remember, a brunette—living in New York City. So also, it seemed, was a certain major then in New York. Being company clerk, I had heard all about the affair, seen her picture and watched from day to day the evident progress of the major as registered in the looks and actions of the lieutenant. "If I could only get across some poetic stuff," he confided one day, "it would do the trick. She's the kind that falls for that stuff hard, and that is the only thing that damned major knows."

This was my chance. "Lieutenant, here's an idea," says I. "Once upon a time I was exposed to the study of poetic English under a college prof. I'll write a poetic letter for you, a real masterpiece that will back Shakespeare off the map. She'll be yours forever. You, in turn, get me my discharge."

"Let's see the letter," replied Fordney. I wrote it that night, and two days later had my discharge.

Three years passed by. One evening as I came into a hotel lobby on the Hudson I chanced to glance at the register and beheld, "Lieut. A. G. Fordney and wife." Says I to myself, "Here's where I see my old looey and meet the commandant." So I waited in the lobby. In a few minutes the door swung open and there entered my old officer and his wife—a most marked blond!

He didn't see me, and I beat an awol at once.—LOYD L. ANDERSON, *Naugatuck, Conn.*

You've Heard of This Gob

EARLY in May, 1918, my commandant, Captain W. A. Moffett, told me at an interview that he had requested the navy authorities at Washington to send myself and the Band Battalion of Great Lakes across seas—we numbered 350 officers and men—"for," said the Commandant, "after you show them your mettle in London, Paris and Rome you will no doubt march into Berlin at the head of our forces." Feeling so, I waited almost

Tell the Thrill Editor, 627 West 43d Street, New York City, the most vivid experience of your service days in 300 words. Unavailable letters cannot be returned.

daily with anticipation for the order to come. On May 21st I received the following orders:

To: Lieutenant John Philip Sousa, U.S.N.R.F.

Orders: Temporary duty on board Flagship Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet.

References: (a) Bureau of Navigation's telegram No. 13020 of May 20, 1918.

1. Proceed to the port in which the Flagship Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet may be as soon as practicable after May 28, 1918, and report to the Commander-in-Chief for temporary duty. Upon the completion of this temporary duty return to Great Lakes, Illinois.

2. This is in addition to your present duties.

(Signed) W. A. MOFFETT.

I proceeded to the fleet and reported to the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Mayo, and, after duty performed, returned to Great Lakes and received the following telegram:

UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET,
U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA, FLAGSHIP.
28 June, 1918.

From: Commander-in-Chief,

To: Lieutenant John Philip Sousa, U.S.N.R.F.

Via: Commandant Great Lakes Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill.

Subject: Temporary duty performed in Fleet, appreciation of.

1. The Commander-in-Chief wishes to express to you his appreciation of the duty recently performed by you in connection with the bands of the Fleet.

2. Your visit will be of lasting benefit to the music of the Fleet and a pleasant recollection to both officers and men.

(Signed) H. T. MAYO.

The order to proceed to the Atlantic Fleet was my first thrill; the second when I viewed that unbeatable, ever-alert, ever-ready fleet; the third when I received the above telegram from Admiral Mayo. — JOHN PHILIP SOUSA (*formerly musical director, Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill.*), *New York City.*

E Pluribus Unum

AT the risk of doubling the greatest thrill of several million other people, I want to rise to state that "the most vivid experience of my uniform days" is a tie between (1) when I put it on and (2) when I took it off. If you can stand an issue of three thrills per man (wonder if officers could get them in dozen lots at their canteens?), I might add one more that was also shared by some millions of folks in and out of uniform, namely, to wit, and viz., the time it really dawned on me that the statement that the war was to end at eleven a.m. on November 11, 1918, was not just another one of those rumors.—JERRY DEMPSEY, *Westfield, Mass.*

Over the Side

I SUPPOSE I really lost out on the only big thrill that the U. S. S. *South Carolina* got mixed up in. That was the time she exchanged three visiting cards with a sub just off Delaware Breakwater. This little incident occurred, as such little incidents were apt to, in the wee sma' hours, and I was sleeping so soundly 'way below in the handling room that I didn't even hear general quarters go.

When we were returning from convoy trip and kicked off our starboard screw, making it necessary to lay to all night, we failed to get a thrill other than that of the sheer loveliness of the full moon on a calm, unruffled mid-ocean. (Honest, soldier, it is that calm at times.)

It remained for old man L. E. Ments to provide us with a real thrill and a doggone good scare. We were on one of those depressingly peaceful "war games" along with the rest of the fleet. This was before they shipped most of them across. On this particular day the aforementioned L. E. Ments had transformed a moderately well-behaved ocean into a series of mountains, each seemingly intent on hammering the poor old *S. C.* to pieces.

Everything had been battened down at the first indication of nasty weather, but some misguided war baby, desirous of getting below and out of the cold stinging sprays, had failed to dog down the port forward forecastle hatch tight enough and she was leaking shamelessly. I had the eight to twelve indicator watch on the bridge that morning, and, there coming a lull in the storm, Aucoin, B.M. 1 c, and Rothenberger, B.M. 2 c, came up on the bridge and asked the officer of the deck if they might tighten up the dogs on the forward hatch. We hadn't taken any over the bows for some time and it looked safe enough, so they were told to go ahead.

So they climbed over the conning tower down and down No. 2 turret to the deck. Just as they reached the hatch the daddy of all big waves swooped down on the ship, which nosed right into it, having just slid down off the back of another big un. It hit us with a crash and a jar, completely submerging two turrets and sent a solid sheet of spray over the whole bridge. Both men were lost to sight, but as the old *South C.* slowly and laboriously lifted her nose from under the wave we could see Aucoin lying limply in the port waterway, an arm and a leg hanging over the side. Rothenberger was clean on top of No. 2 turret, unhurt, for as we watched he clambered to a safer position. Then as the ship shook and heeled a little to port Aucoin slid listlessly under the lifeline and over the

(*Continued on page* 29)

How *to* Get Out *of the* Legion

(*Continued from page* 9)

questionably undesirable member may be deprived of his membership by action of his own post, confirmed by higher authorities. But it also contains safeguards for the individual, so that it may not be employed as the means of private vengeance or impulsive and undeserved punishment by a majority swayed by prejudices.

Cases of expulsion under the new By-Laws which have already been submitted to the National Judge Advocate of the Legion indicate that posts are respecting the spirit of the new law. So far, in the cases which have come to the attention of National Headquarters, the only grounds which have been cited for expelling a member have been neglect of duty, dishonesty and conduct unbecoming a member.

Expulsions for dishonesty have for the most part presented few complications. The chairman of a post relief fund committee, entrusted with a large fund, failed to make an accounting and the accompanying facts established clear culpability. Legal steps to recover the embezzled money were coincident with the trial of the accused committee chairman. He was found guilty and expelled. He automatically finds himself unable to join any post of the Legion. A man carrying a membership card in a distant post obtained loans from Legionnaires in a California town by misrepresentation and later disappeared after abandoning his wife and children and cashing fraudulent checks. He has been expelled from the Legion and posts everywhere have been warned against him. These are typical of the dishonesty cases. All that is required is legal proof of guilt. Expulsion follows swiftly.

Fairness and wisdom decree slow action in those cases involving ordinary neglect of duty. Ordinarily, for instance, a post will only wish to expel a member for non-payment of dues after he has been given every opportunity to square himself. The By-Laws contain this provision:

> Members in arrears four months in the payment of dues shall be classed as delinquent, and six months arrearages shall automatically impose suspension from all privileges. Payment of all back dues within the year, together with all additional levies for that year, shall permit of reinstatement to active membership. A member delinquent one year or more shall only be reinstated upon vote of the post and payments of all amounts due by him to The American Legion.

A common-sense interpretation has been given to this section. It has been ruled that arrearage shall be reckoned only for the year in which the member actually became delinquent in the payment of his dues and shall not be cumulative. For instance, a delinquent member at the end of 1922 might owe his post five dollars in dues and assessments. He might not take any part in Legion affairs during 1923 and fall into the status of a member in bad standing. But if in 1924 he wished to regain his good standing, he could do so by paying up only his 1922 arrearage and, of course, his dues for 1924.

Failure to pay dues is only one "neglect of duty." There are many offenses which might be classed as neglect of duty and render those guilty of them liable to expulsion. So far, however, instances have been conspicuously few.

The provision that members may be expelled for conduct unbecoming a member of the Legion promises to be the most frequently employed, and in those instances which have developed so far indicate that considerable care must be observed to prevent injustice. In one case a member was expelled for selling a mailing list of members of a department which he had obtained officially in connection with the filing of applications for State adjusted compensation. In another case, prompt expulsion followed conviction of a member charged with a felony. The National Judge Advocate, in commenting on one case, has indicated some of the factors which are involved in this charge. He wrote:

> Just as the phrase in the Articles of War, "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," was a bit difficult of definition, excepting in so far as it applied to particular cases, so likewise is a somewhat similar phrase in our Constitution difficult to explain in connection with Legion activities.
>
> My thought is, however, that we should read this sentence in conjunction with the preamble of the Legion's Constitution. One of the strongest points of that part of our Constitution is the statement that The American Legion stands for law and order. Conduct, therefore, of a member of The American Legion which is in direct violation of law and order appears to me to be conduct which would properly be considered as "unbecoming a member of the Legion."
>
> A conviction of crime, undoubtedly, is within that category, although I would not say that an accusation of crime would be such. The presumption of innocence until proved guilty should apply in Legion activities, in considering this point, just as much as in court, but a particularly good example of what I have in mind is the conviction for a violation of law the seriousness of which would warrant a post in feeling that such conviction was "conduct unbecoming a member of The American Legion." The implied qualification is based on the thought of conviction for such minor offenses as speeding or improper parking of an automobile. Such a conviction, of course, means a violation of law, but does not involve any very great moral delinquency as a result. All in all, the entire question is one to be determined largely by the facts.
>
> The power of expulsion should not be used as a means of exercising personal animosities. I believe that the Legion is composed of serious, sober-minded men who would not permit personality to control, but of course it is always necessary that the responsible officials of the Legion guard against such a tendency. The good sense of the organization probably can determine better than I can outline in advance of any case just what "conduct unbecoming a member of the Legion" is.

Human nature being what it is, it is inevitable that as time passes the roll of those expelled from the Legion will grow. Posts, particularly those in large cities and in towns and cities with large transient population, will have to assure themselves that applicants for membership have not been cast out of another post for good cause. At the New Orleans convention this factor was considered. The convention recommended that it shall be the duty of the post and department adjutant to notify the National Adjutant whenever a member is suspended or expelled, and that the National Adjutant shall compile monthly lists of all suspended and expelled members, these lists to be supplied to all departments.

The expulsion of individual Legionnaires is closely related to the question of the revocation of post charters. As shown in the quotation from the By-Laws at the end of this article, a post's existence may be ended by action of department authorities. What are the future rights of the post's members? Well, the policy of forgive and forget has been adopted to cover this contingency. It has been felt that it would be an unnecessary hardship on members of a post whose charter has been revoked if they were to be considered in the same class as men expelled for personal offenses. National Headquarters holds there is no reason why such men should be denied membership in another post, particularly if they happened to be in the dissenting minority which protested against the action which led to the revocation of their post's charter.

This brings up the question: What course is followed when a post officer has been guilty of a violation of the Legion's National Constitution? It has been the custom in most departments for the department headquarters to notify the post of the offense and request that it be disavowed. In most instances this disavowal has been by vote of the post. If the post has disavowed the illegal action of one of its officers it presumably will determine what shall be done with him and whether his offense merits expulsion. In almost every instance, removal from his official position is in order. If, in spite of a clear violation of the fundamental law of the Legion, the post officer who is guilty receives the support of a majority of his post, the department then must handle the situation, ordinarily by revoking the charter of the post. Happily there have been few instances in which post charters have been revoked. Misunderstandings

---

Has your post picked its Poppy Day? The people of your town will be glad to do their part in this service for the living, just as in giving to the Graves Decoration Fund they help in doing homage to the dead. See notice and order blank on page 26.

---

of Legion law and misinterpretations of the Constitution and By-Laws do develop occasionally, but ordinarily controversies can be adjusted without the necessity of extreme disciplinary action.

When and how may a post's existence be ended? What happens when a post violates the Legion's fundamental law? The answers to these questions are to be found in the following article from the Legion's National By-Laws adopted at the New Orleans convention:

ARTICLE III: CHARTERS

Section 1. In addition to the revocation, as provided in the Constitution, charters may be cancelled or suspended. The department executive committee in which the post involved is a member may order the suspension of a charter for a period not to extend beyond the closing of the next succeeding department convention, as a disciplinary measure, or pending action relative to final revocation. The cancellation of a charter is a matter of business wholly, the request being taken through proper channels to the National Executive Committee for final action. A cancellation shall be in order where two or more posts merge, where a post voluntarily ceases to function, or under such other conditions as might make such action necessary within a department.

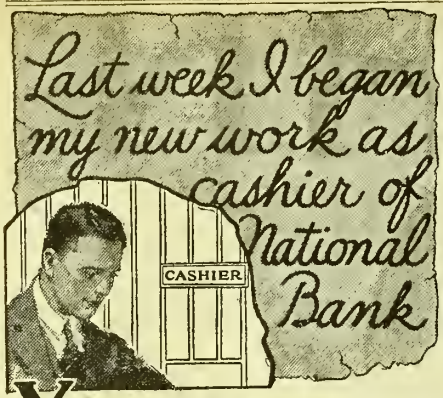
Section 2. Any post failing to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the Constitution and By-Laws, or ceasing to function for six months as an American Legion post, or refusing to pay the per capita tax due state and national departments shall, upon order of the department commander, surrender its charter. Upon failure to surrender such charter, immediate steps may be taken for its revocation.

Section 3. American Legion posts suffering the revocation of their charters may appeal from the decision of the department commander and the department executive committee to the National executive committee as hereinafter prescribed.

Section 4. Upon notice of appeal the National Commander shall appoint a subcommittee of not more than five or less than three members of the National Executive Committee for the purpose of passing upon the action of the department executive committee in revocation of said charter. This committee shall meet at least one day prior to the meeting of the National Executive Committee next following such revocation, and to this committee shall be referred the complete record in writing of said revocation, with such exceptions thereto as are made by the post of which the charter has been revoked. This committee shall review the cause and recommend to the National Executive Committee the action to be taken thereon. The National Judge Advocate shall be an ex-officio member of the said committee.

Section 5. In case of revocation of the charter, the post of The American Legion organized under that charter shall cease operations and turn over to the department headquarters not only its charter, but all records and properties.

This article should conclude with a note of warning. The power to expel members should not be exercised hastily or for other than the most exceptional causes. It should not be a weapon of coercion in the hands of a majority. It should not be employed for intimidation to muzzle expression of opinion. Every action should be accompanied by deliberation and decisions should not be hasty or rendered under excitement. It should be remembered that the primary purpose of the power of expulsion is the protection of the good name and integrity of the Legion and not the punishment of an individual.



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Disastrous effect of showing the realistic film, "Wild Life at Home," at the Bijou Theatre

Is This an Olds One?

Jones: "I sedan bought a new car."
Bones: "Stutz so?"
Jones: "Ford the luvva Mike! I Nash yer, can't yer speak King-lish?"

Where There's a Won't

An old German farmer heard that his bank was on the verge of bankruptcy and hurried into town to draw out his money.

"I vant my money! I vant my money! Effery cent!" he almost screamed.

"Well, don't get excited; I'll get it for you," replied the clerk of that perfectly solvent institution.

"O-o-oh! So? Can I haff it?"

"Certainly."

"Vell, den, I don't vant it."

An Exemplary Life

"Have you a good bootlegger?"

"Good! I should say so. The chap I patronize sings in the choir."

Signed!

The last consignment of troops had just returned home from the Rhine and the fond wife was putting away her husband's uniform. Suddenly she came across something in the pocket and, after perusing it a moment, screamed in anger:

"You faithless brute! What does this mean—this note in the pocket in which somebody speaks of kissing you?"

"Oh-er-of course, yes, my dear. That was-er-a French general near us. You-er-know how the French are in matters like—"

"Oh, to be sure! General 'Darling Gretchen' who?"

Playing Safe

The dear old lady entered the drug store and looked doubtfully at the youthful clerk behind the counter.

"I suppose," she began, "that you are a properly qualified druggist?"

"Yes, madame."

"You have passed all the examinations?"

"Certainly."

"Never poisoned anybody by mistake?"

"Not to my knowledge."

"Very well, then," she replied, heaving a sigh of relief and laying a coin on the counter. "You may give me a nickel's worth of cough drops."

Promological Query

Eve ate the apple
And sighed for clothes;
Why can't girls now
Find apples like those?

And That's Finance

"Here, Annie, here's something for your birthday," announced an old Scotchman, handing his servant a check for five dollars, but with the signature line blank. "Keep it, an' on your next birthday I'll sign it."

Bankrupt

Booth Tarkington was praising colored folks and told this incident to illustrate their affectionate disposition.

After a young colored couple had been married by a white parson, the groom turned to the latter and asked:

"How much does Ah owe yo', Rev'ren'?"

"Oh," said the minister. "Pay me whatever you think it's worth."

The young fellow regarded his bride with

adoring eyes. Then he turned to the minister and said mournfully:
"You's ruined me fo' mah financial life, Rev'ren'. Yo' sho' has."

Not According to Billboards

Rub: "How do you like your latest brand of cigarettes?"
Dub: "Only fair. I don't walk more than half a mile for them."

Liable to Overwork

Rub: "I have nothing to do today."
Dub: "How will you know when you're through?"

Dilemma

Little Girl: "Mamma, if I grow up will I have a husband like papa?"
Mother: "Yes, dear."
Little Girl: "And if I don't get married will I be an old maid like Aunt Susie?"
Mother: "Why—yes, but—"
Little Girl: "Well, I *am* in a fix."

That's the Kid!

Reilly: "An' were ye a good boy th' day, Dinny?"
Little Dinny: "You betcha! Ma licked me four times an' I never struck back once."

Bills and Bills

North: "I wore my last winter's suit yesterday and found in my pocket a roll of bills for fifty dollars."
West: "Do you expect to pay them?"

Some Suit!

Rub: "I have a suit for every day in the week."
Dub: "I should think such constant use would soon wear it out."

Preparatory

Pater: "What good will football do you in later years?"
Fils: "Well, for one thing it may help me to get a seat in a trolley car."

In Love With His Wife

"Mandy has de helpfulest husban'."
"M-m, yaas. Ah hears dat he even stands around and talks to her while she does de washin'."

With Static Trouble

Four-year-old Bobby was being taken for a walk on the street and he and his mother passed a gang of Italian workmen jabbering excitedly in their native tongue.
"Oh, mamma," he ejaculated, "it sounds just like the bedtime story on our radio."

No Waste Energy

"I swan, Jethro," remarked Farmer Hogsbloom to a neighbor, "that new hired man is the laziest yet. I've seen 'em lazy, but he suttinly do beat all. Why, today he got tired and sot down plumb on a hornet."
"Ho, ho!" chortled Farmer Hornsbee. "I vum he got up the quickest he ever moved."
"Nope. Jest sot there—said he guessed it wouldn't sting twice."

Moving Along

A colored gentleman, sauntering down a Georgia road, came upon an acquaintance seated on a tree trunk and puffing audibly.
"Rastus," he inquired as a means toward starting a conversation, "has yo-all jined dis Ku Klux yet?"
"Nope," answered Rastus between his pantings, "but dis Ku Klux has been tryin' to jine me fo' de las' fo' miles an' a half."

Just Between Us Two

Mazie: "What do you think of Patricia?"
Peggy: "Well—er—she's a very nice girl—"
Mazie: "No, but cat to cat, what *do* you think of her?"

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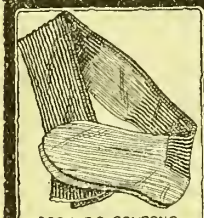
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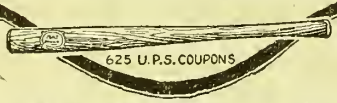
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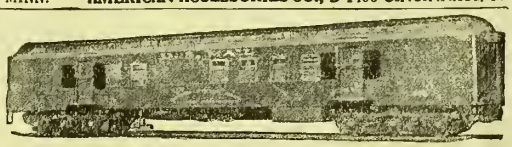

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Jolting the Jayhawkers

Arizona quietly but effectively eclipsed the sun of the Sunflower State in the Weekly subscription card race during the week ending March 21st. By moving up from twelfth to sixth position, Arizona forced Kansas down a peg and pushed Rhode Island out of the top ten. Dark horses are cropping up each week and taking their places with the leaders. Speed up your steed. The standing of the departments on March 21st in proportion of 1923 cards received to total 1922 membership, together with the position on the same date last year based on the same ratio for 1922 and 1921, follows:

1923.		1922.	1923.		1922.
1	Georgia	18	25	Tennessee	24
2	Idaho	34	26	Texas	30
3	Nebraska	3	27	Oklahoma	4
4	S. Dakota	20	28	California	42
5	S. Carolina	31	29	Montana	36
6	Arizona	48	30	Washington	47
7	Kansas	25	31	W. Virginia	41
8	Iowa	7	32	Virginia	37
9	N. Hampshire	22	33	Massachusetts	40
10	Illinois	33	34	Maryland	27
11	Rhode Island	11	35	N. Carolina	14
12	Maine	26	36	Ohio	9
13	Indiana	17	37	Alabama	29
14	Utah	8	38	Oregon	23
15	Minnesota	6	39	Wyoming	16
16	N. Dakota	13	40	Michigan	32
17	Penna.	19	41	Kentucky	15
18	New York	38	42	Mississippi	21
19	Vermont	28	43	New Jersey	44
20	Arkansas	2	44	Nevada	49
21	Wisconsin	10	45	Florida	1
22	Delaware	45	46	D. of C.	35
23	Connecticut	43	47	Missouri	12
24	Colorado	39	48	New Mexico	5
			49	Louisiana	46

Where Everyone's a Millionaire

(*Continued from page* 6)

clerks, members of the former bourgeoisie who perhaps had their own carriages before the revolution, walk miles in all sorts of weather to their offices, to save carfare. I know one in the American Relief Association—a young lady who spoke four or five languages, had traveled everywhere in Europe, and who had been accustomed to lie abed most of the morning in the old days, who took the car to her work in order to get there by nine o'clock (an unheard-of hour for most educated Russians) but religiously tramped the two and a half miles home every evening, even when the walks were deep with slush and she could not afford to buy rubbers. She was the only support for her father and herself, and had to. Another young lady who danced in the Marinsky Theatre ballet in Petrograd—she had gone into the ballet when entering the Imperial Ballet School was rather like combining the training of a polite boarding school with entering the government service—walked the two miles from her home to the theatre, floated round the stage on the tip of her toe all the evening and after the performance tramped home again. Some of her colleagues, who lived across the Neva, on the Vasilevski Ostrov side, had even further to walk.

Another explanation of the mystery of living in Russia today is that people cut down their supposed needs. During the early years of the revolution the average meal of the former bourgeoisie consisted of such things as half-frozen potatoes and tea without sugar, or a bit of black bread and salted herring and tea. You might not think it possible to live on such a diet, and many

could not, but many pulled through nevertheless. A dinner composed largely of boiled rice, or of what one might call "escalloped cabbage"—boiled cabbage, mixed with a little chopped meat and rice or bread crumbs and baked—may not be exciting, but one can exist on it, nevertheless. And many gently-nurtured people dine thus in Moscow nearly every day.

A third explanation is that when worst comes to worst one can always sell something. How the former bourgeoisie, after selling things in this way for five years, have anything left to sell is still another mystery, but they somehow do.

Meanwhile the markets are full of everything—meat and bread in abundance, melons and grapes from the Crimea and Caucasus; butter, cheese, honey, chocolate, tea and coffee, and in the Moscow shops everything, roughly speaking, can be bought by those who have money to buy. And everywhere people are buying, and many seem to have plenty of money. The great Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow is a big place, something like New York's own Metropolitan Opera House, and yet it is packed every night. The same is true of the Marinsky Theatre in Petrograd and of the various other city theatres, and only slightly less true of the provincial theatres and opera houses.

The popular explanation of this phenomenon given by those of the old bourgeoisie who never can afford to go to the theatre now, is that the audience is composed entirely of speculators, and the word speculator is used with a certain derogatory suggestion that the person referred to has come by his money in ways not particularly legitimate.

There are, of course, many such in the theatre audiences—women heaped with jewels and furs (one way of hanging on to real wealth while the currency is falling), shifty-eyed men—but it would be absurd to assert that the bulk of the theatre audiences is made up of such people. Just as many, probably, are those who, however they may be lacking in the graces, have been brought by the revolutionary upheaval into a position where they not only can get their hands on a few roubles, but for the first time in their lives feel at ease in the orchestra chair of a first-class theatre. Nobody will call you "bourzhooy" and throw bricks at you if you go to the play in evening clothes nowadays; on the other hand, if you want to go in a flannel shirt and carry sandwiches and apples in your pocket nobody will object. Then there is the fundamental fact that, in a country with a rapidly falling currency, the saving of mere money ceases to be a virtue. The thing to do is to turn your cash into something real at once, before tomorrow's drop has destroyed its value. And to many people, and particularly to Russians, few things could be more real than the theatre.

As to actual prices in the theatre, I recall paying seven millions for a box seating five persons at the Marinsky Theatre in Petrograd in the spring when the rouble was worth about two or three millions to the dollar—about 40 cents a seat. In November, when the rouble was worth about 18 or 20 millions to the dollar, a seat in the Kamernyi Theatre in Moscow cost me 12 millions, or about 65 cents.

There have been various schemes to check the fall of the rouble. One of

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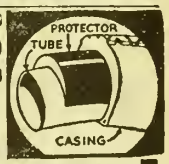

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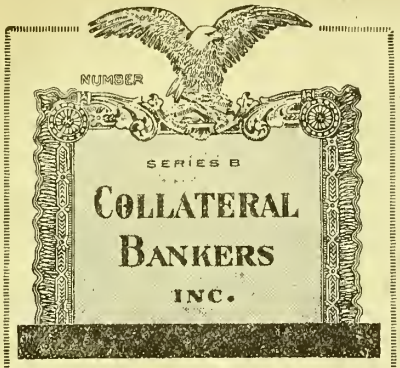

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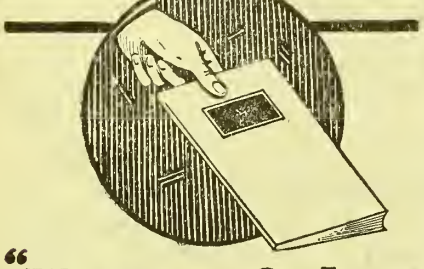

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the more interesting, if minor, devices was the "bread loan" of last summer. The government sold bonds for cash and promised to pay in bread this winter. The theory was that this would give the government a certain amount of ready money without the need of printing more, and that as the loan could be paid in the grain collected by taxation directly from the fields in the autumn, it would "cost" nothing. It appeared to be working well, so far as it went, but was, at best, only a drop in the bucket.

The issue of paper money on the scale on which it has been issued in Soviet Russia (and Austria and Poland are, of course, only less complete examples of the same thing) is in fact a tax on the people. Every time the value of the rouble is cut in two the citizen has, in fact, paid to the government a tax representing half the real value of his money. The government has printed something with which it can buy real commodities today, but the individual citizen wakes up tomorrow morning to find that he can buy just half as many things as he could the day before. Apparently the only thing to do in the end is to wipe the slate clean and begin over again with an issue of currency based on something real.

Impossible as it is to continue high standards of living and large industrial operations in a country producing little but food and not enough of that, people can exist and buy and sell with practically worthless money longer than one might think. So long as there is fuel to burn, food that will keep the people going, and roofs and clothes to cover them, they can contrive to get along with surprising comfort, whether they use paper roubles as a medium of exchange or stamps or sea-shells.

A Debt of Reverence

(*Continued from page 7*)

of the eighty-two days must be much larger than $1,219.50, for the averages of the contributions in the early days of the collection naturally are comparatively small.

This effort calls for combined continuous work. Honor and pride require that the Legion complete its task, and it wants to reach the goal as quickly as it can.

Some early donors have offered to increase the amounts of their contributions if necessary, assuming that general participation by the whole Legion will make further contributions unnecessary. A former captain expresses this feeling by writing: "It would seem there should be no difficulty in getting the total amount. I would make a larger subscription, but what I am sending ought to be enough for an individual."

Everywhere there is agreement that the duty of raising the Endowment Fund is one which should be shared by every post and Legionnaire and by all other citizens. In scores of towns and cities Legion Posts are informing the people of their communities of their privilege to join in raising the fund. Newspapers have opened their columns to acknowledge local contributions. They have published special editions or special pages explaining the need of a permanent fund for graves' decoration abroad. They emphasize that while this task is a Legion responsibility primarily, the obligation exists for everyone. They acknowledge this as one of the most unselfish appeals ever made to the American nation. They have pointed out that contributions to The American Legion's Graves Endowment Fund may be rated as deductions in filing Federal income tax returns.

This is the last year in which Americans will be offered the opportunity of paying a direct tribute to the 32,000 service men buried abroad. Each dollar given will remain on permanent honor duty. The total of the Graves Endowment Fund in twenty years—in fifty years—will be as large as it is on Memorial Day this year. The names of all Americans who have contributed to the Endowment Fund will be recorded forever, and on each Memorial Day to come the donors will know that a tribute of their respect and honor is being accorded to the dead overseas.

Send in your individual contribution or your post's contribution, to the National Treasurer, The American Legion, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Following appears the Weekly's second list of one-dollar-and-over contributors, names of Legion posts appearing in bold-face type:

ALABAMA. *Birmingham:* Edward S. Lipsitz, $1.

ARIZONA. *Jerome:* **Jerome Post, $13.50;** S. A. Goodwin, $2. *Phoenix:* **Frank Luke Post, $25.**

CALIFORNIA. *Vina:* F. T. Robson, $10.

CONNECTICUT. *Meriden:* Harry J. Cowan, $1; *North Stonington:* Frank W. Stolpe, $1; *Wallingford:* Harold H. Wright, $1.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. *Washington:* Woodrow Wilson, $10.

GEORGIA. *Savannah:* John P. Flanagan, $1.50.

IDAHO. *Idaho Falls:* **Bonneville Post, $10.**

INDIANA. *Terre Haute:* **Ft. Harrison Post, $25;** *Noblesville:* Meade Vestal, $2; *Oxford:* Anonymous, $2; *Rosedale:* H. B. Germain, $1.

ILLINOIS. *Chicago:* Everett McC. Ramsay, $1; Geo. D. Olson, $1; Geo. H. Hansen, Jr., $1; Nicholas Sakalares, $2; Clarence E. Harper, $2.50; Dr. Samuel C. Plummer, $2; Sam R. Penfield, $10; *Springfield:* Anne C. Dickson, $5; Anonymous, $1.

KENTUCKY. *Newport:* M. J. Costigan, $25; *Paducah:* F. W. Katterjohn, $5; C. C. Pace, $5; L. A. Washington, $5; Wynn Tully, $5.

MAINE. *Bald Mount:* Mr. and Mrs. S. Eastwood, $2; *Limestone:* A. H. Damon, M. D., $1.

MASSACHUSETTS. *Chicopee Falls:* James Allen, $1; *New Bedford:* Ralph L. Bailey, $2; *Pittsfield:* A Grateful Mother, $5; *Shelburne Falls:* Anonymous, $1; *Worcester:* Chester D. Heywood, $5.

MINNESOTA. *Brainerd:* Curtis M. Shultz, $1; *Luverne:* First National Bank, $3; *St. Paul:* T. J. O'Leary, $1; H. Macy, $1.

MISSOURI. *Boonville:* P. T. Hutchison, $1; *St. Louis:* E. J. Dieny, $1; *Webb City:* John Roberts, $1.

MONTANA. *Kolin:* A. L. George and family, $5.

NEW HAMPSHIRE. *Rockingham:* Elwin M. Flanders, $1.

NEW JERSEY. *Closter:* J. A. Paradise, $10; *Newark:* L. Schuff, $1; Charles A. Boettner, $1; Gen. Putnam Council $5.

NEW YORK. *Binghamton:* C. H. Hitchcock, $2; *Brooklyn:* **Alfred Wilson Post, $15;** *New York City:* Mary Virginia Galivey, $5; Anonymous, $5; *Sidney:* Douglas A. Little, $5; *Watertown:* Anonymous, $1.

NORTH CAROLINA. *Charlotte:* W. F. Ennekling, $5.

NORTH DAKOTA. *Arthur:* Mrs. A. C. Burgim, $5; *Erie:* **Post No. 223, $5.**

OHIO. *Columbus:* Mrs. Chas. G. Swau, $2.

OKLAHOMA. *Oklahoma City:* Leon H. Brown, $5.

PENNSYLVANIA. *Cresson:* **Cresson Post, $10;** *Franklin:* **Franklin Post, $5;** *Philadelphia:* **Henry H. Houston Post, $100;** Anonymous, $1; *Pittsburgh:* Samuel Lefkovits, $1; F. F. Rhodes, $1; *Tidioute:* **Elzie E. Lynch Post, $5.40.**

SOUTH DAKOTA. *Pierre:* Marie Holm, $1.

TEXAS. *Forth Worth:* Roy Kelley, $1.

VIRGINIA. *Ft. Eustis:* H. S. Wagner, $5; *Norfolk:* **Post No. 36, $105.**

WEST VIRGINIA. *Weston:* **Weston Post, $25.**

WISCONSIN. *Chilton:* **R. O. Grassold Post, $10.**

Total for week—$550.90.
Previously reported—$6,626.32
Total to date—$7,177.22.

Real Estate Mortgage Bonds

By a Financial Authority

Bonds secured by mortgages on first class apartment houses, hotels and office buildings are greatly in demand at the present time. This type of security, provided it is issued by a reputable concern, conservative, and financially strong, richly deserves its popularity, for it is an extremely attractive investment both from the standpoint of security and yield.

Most people are familiar with mortgages, and a real estate mortgage bond is nothing more than a share in a mortgage. Small mortgages are usually taken by one person, but when the sum involved runs into many thousands of dollars, it is necessary to split it up and place it with a larger number. The practice is to create a trust deed conveying the title of the property to a trustee, and this trust deed secures the bonds issued against it.

Concerns needing cash for building operations go to some company which makes a specialty of these bonds and applies for a loan. Provided everything is satisfactory the loan is granted, a mortgage is created, a trust deed drawn, and bonds are issued and sold. The application for a loan, however, is subjected to many tests before it is granted. The big companies specializing in real estate mortgage bonds have large staffs of experts who appraise the property to be mortgaged, pass upon all the legal details of the transaction, and make voluminous reports of their investigations to the directors who scrutinize every detail with the utmost care. Usually reports from outside, disinterested third parties are also obtained and their findings compared with those of their own staff. Credit departments investigate the financial standing of the borrower, and bank reports are secured in addition. The engineering department also figure in the deal and check over the various reports. In short, the best real estate mortgage bond dealers employ every possible means of assuring themselves—and their customers—that the bonds they offer for sale are well secured and suitable, conservative investments.

This class of bonds may usually be obtained in denominations of $500—sometimes $100—and upwards, and many of the houses offering them for sale have arrangements enabling the purchaser to pay for them in instalments. There is no bother connected with this form of investment, for arrangements can be made to have the interest mailed by check whenever an instalment is due. The owner merely cashes the check.

Real estate mortgage bonds are largely purchased by banks and insurance companies, and in increasing quantities also by individuals who want to put their money into something yielding a good rate of interest, something conservative, and worth holding until maturity. The principal thing to be sure of is that the concern offering the bonds is conservative, reliable and strong.

Springfield, Ill.,
April 4th 1923.

Dear Buddy:—
Well, Old Warhorse, I've got some good news. Remember over there in the summer of '18 we talked over our future, believing of course that we'd come through the big pushes O.K. Both swore we'd save our jack as never before. I did that very thing. Part of every week's pay went into Caldwell 7% Bonds. Say, soldier, you would be surprised how that interest money mounted up. That old hike song was right—"every little bit added to what you got makes a lot more." For every fourteen dollars invested I got one buck interest each year.
To-day we're moving into our new home. We are on Easy Street, Joe. Dugout dreams have come true. Figuring for the future are figures that don't lie. It looks like a trip for the family to the convention at Frisco next

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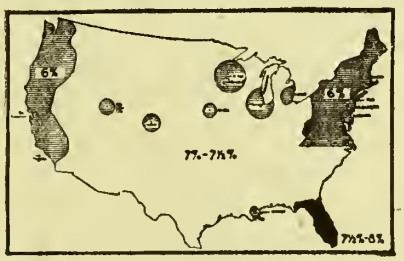

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The Profiteer Hunt

(*Continued from page* 5)

General, concerning whose attitude toward the prosecution of war-contract cases we have spoken before. Mr. Lenihan said there was no case against the Maxwell company and the claim finally was paid.

Though the claim of the Templar Motors Corporation of Cleveland was cut in half, a review of this case will be watched with interest by certain officials and former officials who were engaged in that settlement. M. F. Bramley, president of the corporation, went to Washington early in December of 1917 to solicit war orders. Assistant Secretary Crowell and other influential people were visited in his behalf. He got a bevo contract for 150,000 155mm. shells at $11.90 a shell. This was a top price for that type of shell, but it was explained to Mr. Bramley that he was thus favored because the order was so small. It totaled only $1,785,000. Major Gordon Grand, representing the Ordnance Department, told Mr. Bramley to start production as soon as possible and if he made good there was "no limit to what you can do"—or such is the account related by Mr. Bramley at one of the Claims Board hearings.

But Mr. Bramley was not quite satisfied. "Suppose," he says he pointed out to the major, "that we get on with this contract and it is suspended or we lose money on it or it is stopped by the cessation of the war?" To which Mr. Bramley testified Major Grand replied:

"It's all right. Go on anyway. You cannot lose. There will be a cost-plus clause in your contract that will take care of you."

Mr. Bramley remarks that when he reported the result of this journey to Washington to the company's directors they were "pleased."

And so the Templar Motors Corporation got in the war, as did most other contractors, on a "can't lose" basis. They solicited and received an additional contract for 300,000 shells. They were always far behind on deliveries, concerning which Lieut.-Col. Robert A. Bruce reported to the Claims Board.

The performance of the Templar Motors Corporation was so far from satisfactory that in our calculations of production we did not count on them for anything. . . . There was much criticism of Templar Motors during the war on account of their using the fact of their having these contracts as an inducement to buy their stock. Some of their newspaper publicity approached very closely to the line over which you cannot go without danger of being denied the use of the mails.

The Templar corporation submitted claims totaling $1,041,599 and put up a hard fight for them. They were awarded $507,394.

The reductions in the Templar and Maxwell claims were made despite every plea of the contractors, who prolonged negotiations to the bitter end. They made special pleas on the ground of extenuating circumstances, of financial hardship forced upon them by the impairment of their automobile businesses during the war.

There is little in the record to indicate that either contractor gained much on this account, yet very often the

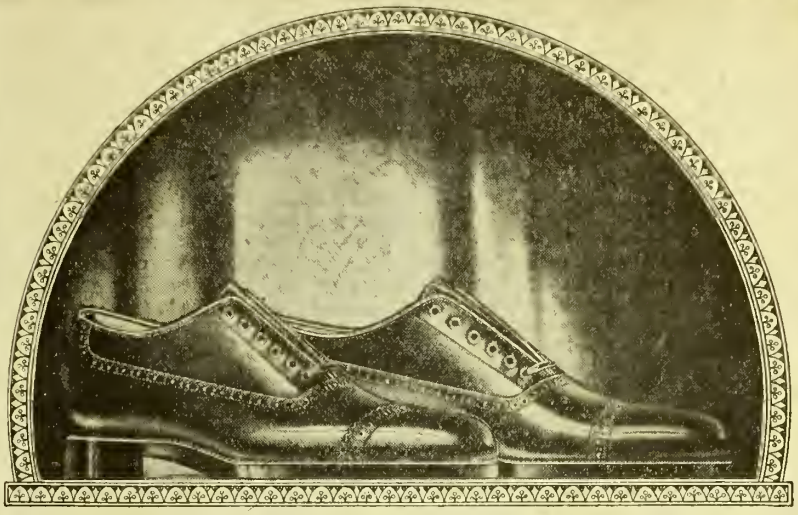
Claims Board was lenient with a contractor simply because he seemed to be hard up. This generous impulse did not escape the average contractor, who seldom overlooked a trick that was to his advantage. As rags become royal raiment when worn for virtue's sake, there sprang up a class of contractors who habitually appeared before the hurried Claims Board officials with tales of poverty that would have moved a heart of flint.

I am going to digress here just for a moment to relate an incident in connection with a claim submitted by a contractor, who, however, apparently spurned such mendicant methods. Incidentally it illustrates a point I have been urging all along, which is that the average contractor found the war pretty profitable. The Inland Steel Company of Chicago, with works at Indiana Harbor, Indiana, put in a claim for "around $3,000,000," according to the minutes of the district Ordnance board at Chicago. This claim subsequently was "rewritten" and reduced to $2,335,441, which sum, substantially, was allowed. We have been informed that this has been regarded as a very "generous" settlement, but have been able to find no evidence to indicate that it was too generous for the Government's good. It was this passage in the minutes of the Chicago Board, though, that struck me as interesting. The speaker is the president of the board, E. A. Russell, vice-president of the Otis Elevator Company, a man who is no stranger himself to big business. Discussing the Inland claim, he said:

> We know the Inland Steel crowd very well. They started in a short time ago with practically nothing and they built up a wonderful industry. Before we went into the war it was rumored around town that the poor Inland Steel Company, which had a capitalization of $10,000,000, had only made $10,000,000 the previous year. . . . They certainly have made a barrel of money.

Whether or not subsequent investigation will disclose that the Inland Steel settlement was too generous, it is certain that the forthcoming review of Claims Board findings will show how that organization did much good work. We have cited two cases—those of the Maxwell and Templar concerns — where claims aggregating $3,000,000 were cut to $650,000. But it is also certain that if this investigation is conducted along proper lines it will show where the board has failed adequately to protect the Government and paid contractors more than they were entitled to have. We shall now submit a case in which we believe evidence exists to prove that the contractor in question was overpaid. There are a great many such cases, of course, a few of which we shall touch upon from time to time just to give an idea of the nature of the work Colonel Hull has in hand. The case before us is that of Manning, Maxwell & Moore, jobbers, of New York.

Now a jobber occupied a peculiar niche in the wartime scheme of things. He was a go-between who linked Uncle Sam, the consumer, with the manufacturer, who produced what Sam wanted. The jobber seldom produced anything himself, but he did help to make the war expensive. Early in the war, when everything was topsy-turvy, due to unpreparedness, the jobber was of real



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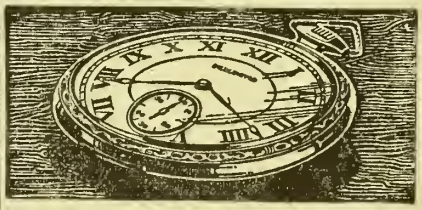

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Remember the good old-fashioned mustard plaster grandma used to pin around your neck when you had a cold or a sore throat?

It did the work, but my how it burned and blistered!

Musterole breaks up colds in a hurry, but it does its work more gently,—without the blister. Rubbed over the throat or chest it penetrates the skin with a tingling warmth that brings relief at once.

Made from pure oil of mustard, it is a clean, white ointment good for all the little household ills.

Keep the little white jar of Musterole on your bathroom shelf and bring it out at the first sign of tonsillitis, croup, neuritis, rheumatism or a cold.

Sold by druggists everywhere, in jars and tubes, 35c and 65c; hospital size, $3.

The Musterole Co., Cleveland, Ohio

BETTER THAN A MUSTARD PLASTER

MUSTEROLE
WILL NOT BLISTER
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

service to an officialdom which was running around in circles. When something was needed and officialdom was tearing its hair, ignorant of which way to turn to get it, up would step the jobber, composed and confident. He would say, "A million pair of marching shoes? Certainly. Know just the people to do it. Delighted to take the whole matter off your hands." The jobber knew what he was talking about; he knew the market—that was his business. He placed the order with manufacturers he had on his string, for which service he received from a fifteen to a thirty percent commission. The manufacturer could afford to be liberal, especially on cost-plus contracts.

But as the war progressed and officialdom began to get its bearings the jobber became more and more a non-essential—an expensive luxury if not an evil. The jobbers' headquarters were Washington. They were as close to the inside as they could get. Frequently they were able to anticipate the Government's requirements and corner a market in advance, forcing Uncle Sam to pay any price they had a mind to ask. So it was decided to dispense with jobbers. In the summer of 1918 production and procurement officers were instructed to deal with manufacturers direct.

At this time preparations were under way for another winter of war with a victory smash in the spring. On August 15th the requirements section of the Ordnance Department declared this enterprise would require, among other things, 4,902,300 pistols of .45 calibre. To handle in a short space of time an order so large the first need was tools for making pistols. In strict confidence Captain Harry Carlton, an Ordnance Officer stationed at Washington, was ordered to make a survey with a view of eventually placing orders for these tools. Carlton was warned to let no word of the gigantic pistol program get out. It would have meant corners of the market galore. The formal order was supplemented by a telephone call from Mr. Merriweather of the War Industries board urging Carlton to be on his guard and to work fast. Mr. Merriweather stated there evidently had been a leak somewhere as P. M. Brotherhood, vice-president of Manning, Maxwell & Moore, was boasting about town that he had the pistol deal sewed up. Captain Carlton says Mr. Merriweather enjoined him under no circumstances to give an order to this firm.

This was in September. A few days later Captain Carlton heard that Mr. Brotherhood was in Washington negotiating with two Ordnance officers and an Ordnance private for the pistol tool contract. While in town Brotherhood called on Captain Carlton. He did not mention the pistol contract, but Carlton did. He told Brotherhood it would be useless for him to negotiate with the officers and the private in question, that they were without authority to place the contract, either formally or informally. The procurement division which Carlton represented alone had such authority, the captain said, adding that in no case would Manning, Maxwell & Moore get the order.

"Mr. Brotherhood did not appear to take this warning seriously," observes Captain Carlton in his official report on the conversation. Carlton went ahead with his survey, which he says disclosed great activity by Brotherhood. He was tying up tool makers fast. The Armistice, however, brought an end to this phase of the matter. Sometime after the Armistice Captain Carlton re-

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New friends, new pleasures, new and interesting experiences, invitations galore—dinners, dances, week-end parties, outings,—are some of the good things playing a Gibson brings into your life.

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Send for FREE catalog, FREE music and information about Mandolin, Mandola, Mando-cello, Mando-bass, Guitar, Harp-guitar, Mandolin-banjo, Tenor-banjo, Cello-banjo, Guitar-banjo. If interested in Agency, check here..... Teacher?..... Clip, check and mail this ad today. Address all mail to Kalamazoo.

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You Hold the April Reins!

The drive is on. The teams are rounding up new members. Your bit is a little bit. Bite in and let's go!

The corral is filling up with new members. The Big Year is at hand.

Get in on the round-up. Keep after every ex-service man until he wears the Legion button. Overwhelm him with facts.

Tell him of community projects initiated by the Legion, of shade trees planted by Legionnaires, of school expansion sponsored by Legion posts, of Boy Scout troops adopted, of dances, carnivals, bazars, track meets, boxing nights, swimming contests, concerts, lectures fostered by the Legion.

Tell him of park benches where his buddies slept, of bread lines where his comrades found Legion friends, of hospitals where the Legion fought for forgotten heroes. Tell him of comradeship and clubhouses; of buddies that the Legion laid to rest; of funeral expenses the Legion paid.

Tell him that these are only a few items in the Legion's list of deeds done.

New members—let's go!

POST OFFICERS

Make your reign a rain of cards. Keep them coming. Be sure of your addresses.

Get your Membership Drive started. Now is the time to get new members.

Write the Weekly, for posters, pamphlets, and application blanks. We have a limited supply for posts that will use them.

This is the Big Year. If you are facing problems you cannot overcome write us for help.

Make your reign a rain of cards.

ceived, to his great surprise, a letter from Mr. Brotherhood requesting (as Carlton reports) "formal orders and shipping instructions for completed material which he claimed had been ordered from him." Carlton declined, reminding Brotherhood that the Government had contracted for nothing from Manning, Maxwell & Moore.

This would end matters surely, thought Carlton; but again he was mistaken. He was asked to appear before the Board of Contract Adjustment in Washington as a witness for the Government in the claim of Manning, Maxwell & Moore, who sought validation of their "informal contract" for pistol tools. The treasurer of the company testified regarding the anticipations of the company in the matter. He said the contract was estimated at $3,000,000, of which Manning, Maxwell & Moore had expected a profit of from fifteen to thirty percent. They were willing to forego this and submit a modest claim covering expenses of their preparations to care for the Government's needs. Captain Carlton testified that Manning, Maxwell & Moore did not have a vestige of authorization to spend a cent. He related everything that has been told in this account. Other government witnesses submitted similar testimony. Captain Carlton left feeling the Government had won the case—but a few days later it was announced that Manning, Maxwell & Moore held a valid contract for pistol tools!

But there was one bridge—in fact, two bridges—yet to cross. These were Claims Board bridges. Manning, Maxwell & Moore submitted a claim for $247,000 before the New York district board. It was about to be passed in short order when Captain John H. Buckley of New York, in civil life a consulting engineer, began to look into the past history of the case. Captain Buckley was a member of the Board. Colonel Carl S. Reed, himself in civil life a machinery jobber, was the board's president. Captain Buckley sought to introduce the testimony Carlton had given before the Board of Contract Adjustment. He was overruled. He then moved that the claim should be thrown out because, he charged, the Manning, Maxwell & Moore Company had neither a contract nor an understanding that would lead to one. He was overruled again. The claim was passed by the New York board with one dissenting vote—Captain Buckley's. It was passed by the Washington reviewing board and Manning, Maxwell & Moore collected $242,795. The evidence the Weekly sets forth here is all of official record. The War Department should have less trouble finding it than the Weekly did.

Such was the mobilization and then the demobilization—or scrambling and unscrambling, if that is not unfair—of industry. In each instance Uncle Sam acted in haste—which, as the adage says, carries the privilege of repentance at leisure. But some of the anguish of that repentance will be assuaged if Secretary Weeks and Colonel John A. Hull make the most of their present opportunity.

NOTE—Many requests for permission to republish portions of Mr. James's series on profiteering have been received by the editors, who take this opportunity to announce that the articles of the series may be reprinted, either in whole or in part, by any publication, provided credit is given The American Legion Weekly.

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Hinds Honey and Almond Cream Soothes and Heals the Skin. Prevents roughness and chapping.

After rinsing off the soap and drying the face apply just enough Hinds Cream to moisten the skin, rubbing gently. Remove with the towel any surplus that may remain.

This Cream quickly stops the sting, heals cuts and the close-shave effect. It neutralizes any astringent action of the soap; prevents and relieves windburn and chapping, keeping the skin soft and ready for the next day's shave.

Keep a bottle of Hinds Cream in the car to cleanse the hands and prevent roughness.

Selling everywhere. Hinds Honey and Almond Cream in bottles, 50c and $1.00. Cold and Disappearing Cream, tubes, 25c. Jars, 60c. Traveler size, all creams, 10c each. Samples, 2c.

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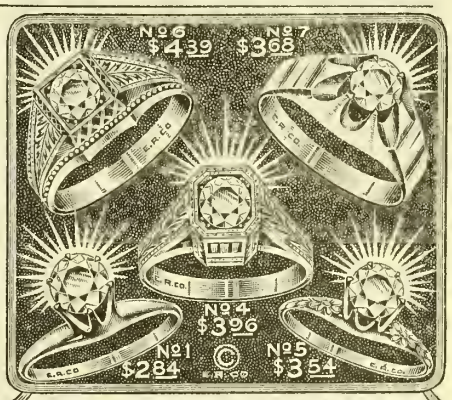

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New Way to Rid Poultry of Lice

Rev. G. R. Mente Tells of Amazing Discovery Which Keeps Hens and Chicks Free From Vermin

Few Drops of Liquid in Drinking Water Does It—No More Dusting, Spraying or Greasing

"I have used your remarkable Lice and Mite Remedy with fine results," writes Rev. G. R. Mente, Methodist Parsonage, New Washington, Ohio. "It proved all you claimed for it. Mentioned this at a Farmers' Institute a few weeks ago. Consequently, farmers by the dozen have been after me ever since to find out where and how they could get it. Rush me $5.00 worth to help out. Your remedy not only does away with Lice and Mites, but it has put a stop to the poultry losses in this community. You are a great benefactor to poultry raisers."

Easy and Simple to Use

This remarkable new discovery which Rev. G. R. Mente used is Imperial Lice and Mite Remedy. Just a few drops occasionally in the fowls' drinking water makes Lice, Mites, Ticks and all vermin go like magic. No more disagreeable and unsanitary dusting, spraying, greasing or dipping. Equally good for Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks, Geese and Pigeons. Fine for baby chicks and makes them healthier, sturdier and grow faster.

All poultry raisers know that sickly, lice-infested hens cannot lay or have good hatches. Vermin sap the very life and strength of hens and baby chicks. Stop these losses now. Guaranteed not to affect eggs or flesh of fowls in any way. Also a splendid egg tonic and blood purifier. Costs but a trifle on money-back guarantee of satisfaction.

White Diarrhea Remedy Free
(Regular $1.00 Size Package)

At last a sure treatment for this dread disease. No muss. No fuss. Comes in condensed tablet form to be dropped occasionally in chicks' drinking water. Raise every chick hatched. Economical to use. Be prepared. These remedies should always be on hand.

SEND NO MONEY. Just your name and address to Imperial Laboratories, Dept. 6909 Kansas City, Mo., for one regular, full size $1.00 bottle of Imperial Lice and Mite Remedy (double strength), and they will include free of cost, a regular $1.00 box of Imperial White Diarrhea Remedy. Pay postman only $1.00 and few cents postage on arrival. Or, a large size Trial Package of either one of these remedies for 50 c.

If you have a large flock, this Special Introductory Offer also applies on a double quantity of both remedies—two regular $1.00 bottles of Lice and Mite Remedy, and two regular $1.00 packages of White Diarrhea Remedy at an additional saving—all for $1.75. Simply specify that you be sent this regular $4.00 value for only $1.75. Readers risk no money, as Imperial Laboratories are fully responsible and will refund the cost on request any time within 30 days.

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THE LEGION LIBRARY

Through the medium of The American Legion Weekly, The American Legion expects to assemble a complete library covering the field of American activity in the World War. It is intended ultimately to assemble this library in a room of its own, preferably at National Headquarters. Books received in the office of this magazine for inclusion in the library are listed on receipt, and in most cases noticed in reviews.

The Legion in Perspective*

FIVE years is a tender age at which to have a history written, at least the history of a human being. But the first five years in the history of an institution—especially such an institution as The American Legion—are probably the most important of all. This might well be Mr. James's excuse, if excuse were needed, for writing "A History of The American Legion."

But the Legion, despite its seeming youth, is really not such a stripling after all. Time is not a fixed quantity—page Dr. Einstein—and the five years since 1919 have had as much crowded into them as happened in the generation after 1875, and they followed five even more crowded years in which as much happened as in the whole century since Napoleon's death. But even considering five years as sixty months and no more, it gives the reader something of a start to read in Mr. James's account of the St. Louis caucus in 1919 that the delegates passed a resolution indorsing the Victory Loan. So much has happened since then that the resolution sounds as anachronistic as if the first Legion representatives had adopted a vote of thanks to Admiral Dewey for heroic conduct at Manila Bay.

Mr. James's history is an accurate and absorbing account of the development of Legionism. It is accurate because, as a newspaper man of many years' standing and wide experience, and as the author of various series of articles in the Weekly so potential with buried dynamite that the slightest slip in accuracy would have set off the whole charge, Mr. James has had to learn to be accurate. It is absorbing because he has been on the inside of Legion history more than any other individual ever has been or probably can be, and because he is able to tell the story from the inside with the skill of a trained narrator.

"Inside history" is a doubtful sort of term and usually implies a doubtful compliment. It means, generally, something that had better be left unsaid by any well-wisher of the person or thing it might be said about. Happily this does not apply to the Legion. There is nothing in the Legion's record (or if there is even Mr. James does not tell it) that is not creditable, even though there are some things that might not have reacted favorably at the time if they had become widely known.

As an instance, there is the story of the reception planned for General Pershing by the Legion in New York City in the summer of 1919 following his triumphal return from France. The general was the guest of Mayor John F. Hylan, who, according to Mr. James, "had the 'soldier vote' complex, and when he learned that New York's distinguished guest had accepted an invitation to speak at a Legion meeting, it was regarded as an extremely un-

* A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, by Marquis James. Published by William Green, 627 West 43d st., New York City. Pp. 320. $2.50.

How *to* Get *the* Legion Poppy

EVERY Legion post has been asked by National Headquarters to conduct in its own community, before Memorial Day, a poppy-selling campaign, the proceeds from which will be devoted to welfare work for needy and disabled veterans. Details are left in the hands of the posts themselves, who may select their own dates and their own methods. Poppies may be obtained from the National Emblem Division (see order blank below), and will cost 4½ cents each. Selling at 10 cents each, the poppies will return a profit to the post welfare fund of 5½ cents each, which allows one-half cent for the department and one-half cent for the Legion's National Service and Rehabilitation Fund, these two amounts being included in the purchase price. If your department has not arranged to supply posts with poppies, order direct from the National Emblem Division. The poppy to be supplied is a faithful reproduction of the flower that blossomed far and wide on American battlefields in France five years ago.

National Emblem Division of The American Legion
Indianapolis, Indiana

Our post intends to do its duty. In order that we may do our part in the national poppy-selling campaign, we inclose $....., for which please send us ..... poppies at four and one-half cents each, it being understood that one-half cent for each poppy goes to our department headquarters and an additional half cent to the national service and rehabilitation fund. Make shipment to the following address:

EVERY DAY SHOULD BE MEMORIAL DAY FOR THE SICK AND DISABLED

Signature .....

Post .....

Street Address.....

City..... State.....

fortunate omen. But since Pershing had accepted, the best that could be done would be to render his appearance before the Legion as brief and as inconspicuous as possible." The general and the mayor reached Madison Square Garden at eight o'clock sharp on the evening of the meeting, and proceeded at once to the platform, where they were greeted by Chairman Henry D. Lindsley. Mr. James continues:

While the band was still playing Mayor Hylan asked Mr. Lindsley how long the program would last. Mr. Lindsley said until 9:30, whereupon the Mayor stated he would be obliged to take General Pershing from the meeting sufficiently before 8:30 to fill an engagement at that time. The Mayor suggested that the General be presented to the audience immediately.

A heated colloquy ensued. Mr. Lindsley told the Mayor such an arrangement was impossible. The Mayor protested, but the Legion chairman would not be moved. He said the program had been arranged and would be carried out as determined. The band continued playing; the audience cheering and moving toward seats, little aware of the important drama that was being carried on in whispered tones on the stage before them. It was a drama that affected vitally the future career of The American Legion, for an apparent public slight at Pershing's hands would have cut deeply.

The audience already in seats began to exhibit impatience. Chairman Lindsley was pinning his hope on the arrival of Miss Elsie Janis. She could have held them for fifteen minutes and given the others a chance to reach their seats. Then came another blow in the form of a message from Miss Janis saying she could not arrive before 8:45. The audience in seats clamored for action. Chairman Lindsley opened the meeting, presenting Luke Lea, former United States Senator from Tennessee, who launched into an eloquent and carefully prepared address. General Pershing did not seem to enthuse over some of Mr. Lea's statements, and Mayor Hylan leaned over and whispered to the General:

"You ought to leave. He is talking politics."

It was a tense moment, for Mr. Lea had just made a statement with reference to our Mexican policy which produced in the minds of many hearers the unhappy effect of a plea for intervention. Pershing set his jaws.

"This is a political meeting and ought to be stopped," urged the Mayor.

Lea relieved the situation by bringing his address to a brilliant close eulogistic of Pershing. The throng was on its feet again, cheering. Chairman Lindsley presented General Pershing and there was another outburst. Pershing had promised to say only a few words and no one knew in what vein they would be. He spoke for twenty minutes, however. It was his most significant utterance since his arrival in America. He reviewed the Legion's opportunities for a glorious and useful future. He urged its members to carry on inspired only by motives which would react for the benefit of their country. He closed with a pointed piece of advice to his hearers to keep their organization "free from partisan politics."

More prosaic but of intense interest to the enthusiastic Legion member and worker is this bit of inside history of the early financing of the Legion:

A fairly widespread report was that Wall Street had laid aside a million dollars to set the Legion up in business, but in other quarters the sum was hiked to a really presentable figure. A radical journal published in the West finally put the Legion's "blood-subsidy" at "conservatively $10,000,000." . . . All these tales and innuendoes are false without qualification. It actually cost just $186,633.01 to finance

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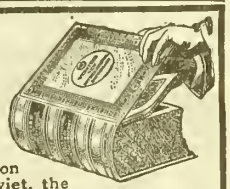
Whatever Your Question



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Portrait agents and others. Get big profits. Sell Perry Photo Medallions. You charge $2.98; make 400% profit each sale. $10 daily easy. Big exclusive line! 4-day service. Perry Photo Novelty Corp., Section 40, 360 Bowery, N. Y.

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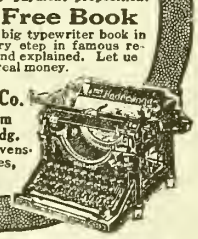

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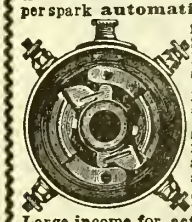


AUTO SUN PRODUCTS COMPANY.
Dept. 40 Cincinnati, Ohio

the national organization of The American Legion up to the First National Convention. In addition to this, $178,882.31 was spent to establish and operate The American Legion Weekly, making a total outlay of $365,515.32. Every penny of this came ultimately from Legion members in the form of national membership dues at one dollar a head. It did not come originally in that form, of course. That was manifestly impossible. The Legion's receipts from dues and Weekly advertising were $230,573.69, leaving a deficit of $134,941.63. The Legion needed money before there was any machinery for the collection of dues or many members to collect from. In June (1919) the Finance Committee, under the chairmanship of John W. Prentiss, estimated that the Executive Committee should have $250,000 at its disposal for its stupendous task of organization. It inaugurated a national loan by voluntary subscription. Subscriptions were discontinued after 213 Legionnaires residing in thirteen States had chipped in a total of $257,000. The cash was raised on notes endorsed by these Legionnaires and held by banks in widely separated parts of the country. The Legion retired these notes with six percent interest, borrowing from its $500,000 Y. M. C. A. trust fund to do it. The fund has been reimbursed by money received from dues.

This is inside stuff of a non-sensational sort—in fact, of an anti-sensational sort, for in this instance it was the untruths which possessed that element of scandal generally associated with insideness and in-the-knowness. Quite as inside and of more interest to the average reader, Legion or non-Legion, who is not averse to excursions into the engrossing records of human frailty is Mr. James's story of the Von Mach incident—a story where Mr. James was more in the know than any other person concerned, not even excepting Dr. von Mach himself. And quite as insidey, and wholly pleasant and inspiring in the reading, are his accounts of such outstanding Legion personalities as D'Olier and Galbraith.

The Legion's birth and rise are already a part of history. Built out of a memory, it must by process of time become itself a memory. Then someone will write another history of it. The calendar has limited Mr. James to the Legion's infancy and early boyhood. The Legion will be fortunate if as capable a chronicler is on hand to deal with the full vigor of its manhood and the dignity of its hale old age.

Books Received

COMPANY K, 317TH INF. *Compiled by Captain Arthur F. Shaw, 400 Houseman bldg., Grand Rapids, Mich.*

HISTORY OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH DIVISION. *By Capt. E. J. D. Larson, 523 Boston block, Minneapolis, Minn.*

THE HISTORY OF THE YANKEE DIVISION. *By Harry A. Benwell. Cornhill Company, Boston, Mass.*

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DIVISION IN FRANCE. *Pictorial. By Eugene Gilbert. Dexter Building, Corner 15th & Walnut sts., Philadelphia, Pa.*

THRU THE WAR WITH OUR OUTFIT. *Motor Battalion, 107th Am. Tn. By John C. Acker, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.*

AMERICAN CATHOLICS IN THE WAR. *By Michael Williams. MacMillan Company, New York City.*

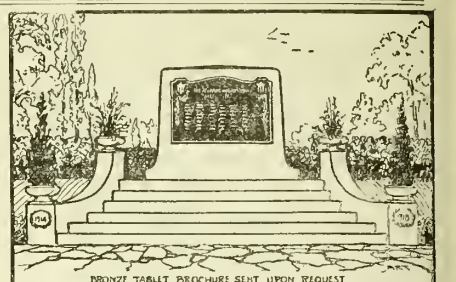
THE STORY OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DIVISION. *By Major General John F. O'Ryan, 2 vols. Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co., 80 Lafayette st., New York City.*

MODERN CAVALRY. *By Major Malcolm Wheeler-Nicholson. MacMillan Company, New York City.*

THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH DIVISION IN THE WORLD WAR. *Compiled by Thomas F. Meehan. Dodd, Mead and Company, New York.*

MEMORIES OF THE 309TH F. A. *Edited by William E. McCarthy, 303 Ravenwood av., Rochester, N. Y.*

THE RUHR OCCUPATION AND EUROPE'S CRISIS: *A Call to Action by the United States. A Proposal by Willard Straight Post of The American Legion, New York County Chapter. Distributed by the post, 120 West 42d St., New York City.*



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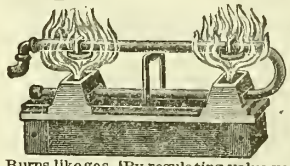
Agents: Get Busy



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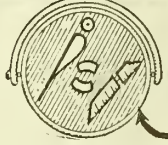

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California state lands, The State Land Board of California has for sale 87 irrigated farms at Ballico near Merced in San Joaquin Valley on main line Sante Fe Railway. The state makes it possible for you to own one of these farms, only requiring 5 per cent of purchase price, remainder in semi-annual installments extending over 36½ years with 5 per cent interest annually. Here is an opportunity to become a home owner on terms as favorable as renting. It will be a long time before any more land will be available under such generous provisions. Money advanced on improvements and dairy stock. Those already located very enthusiastic; you can farm all year in California; all deciduous fruits profitably grown; alfalfa a paying crop, ideal conditions for stock and poultry; many persons long some day to make their homes in California, with its winterless climate, plenty of sunshine, seashore and mountains, fertile valleys, paved highways, very efficient marketing, excellent schools; State Board's pamphlet also Santa Fe folder describing San Joaquin Valley mailed free on request. C. L. Seagraves, General Colonization Agent, Santa Fe, 960 Railway Exchange, Chicago, Ills.—Adv.

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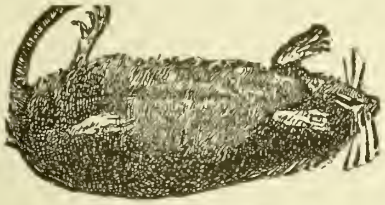
"The year previous Rats killed 200 out of 300 baby chicks. Last year saved them all. Will send for 10 bottles for neighbors, and we will clean up the whole neighborhood."



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SEND NO MONEY. Write today to Imperial Laboratories, Dept. 2130, Kansas City, Mo., and they will mail you two regular $1.00 bottles of Imperial Virus (double strength). Pay postman only $1.00 and few cents postage on arrival. Use one yourself and sell the other to a neighbor, thus getting yours free.

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A Poetical Private and Some Others

(*Continued from page* 13)

side. Anderson, an old time Q.M., had presence of mind enough to let go one of the life buoys, and to this Aucoin undoubtedly owes his life. The O. D. passed the word for both whaleboats to be lowered, an order which was promptly belayed by the skipper, for to lower a boat in such a sea would have been suicidal. The skipper then brought the ship about, and in a display of the prettiest seamanship you could wish to see brought her alongside of Aucoin, clinging to his buoy, and rescue was effected by means of someone going over the side on a line.

I claim that captain rates a medal, hein?—HAROLD SIBTHORPE, *Miami, Fla.*

One Touch of Home

I HAD been from here to there, done this and that, and had finally wound up at the Saumur Artillery School as assistant Q. M. It was part of my duty to take care of all incoming and outgoing shipments, and so I spent much of my time at the railroad station.

One day, when one of the great drives was going on in September, 1918, I had had a very hard day with the station master trying to get cars spotted. A dinky French train was slowly passing through and I was cussing everything in sight because of the slowness of it and the trouble with the station master.

The train slowed up and the car that was standing in front of me was an open affair with a large box in it that nearly filled the car. I stared at this box. It read on the side "From Allith-Prouty Co., Danville, Illinois, U. S. A." Now to most of you this would not be a thrill, but you see I hail from Danville, and you can be sure that I got some thrill when I saw that box and name. It was like being at home or, rather, like having your old home town step in and pull you out of the rut when you are down in the mouth. When that train finally pulled out of the station I'll just bet that station master wonders to this day why I treated him so nice so sudden when I had been giving him hell all day long.—RALPH W. JONES (*Capt. Q. M. C.*), *Danville, Ill.*

The Field Clerk's Revenge

ALL over France everybody had it in for the field clerk. Because they resembled officers they were constantly being saluted, and wherever they turned they invariably found someone to step on them. Altogether theirs was not a happy lot.

No field clerks ever were treated with less consideration than those stationed at ——, where about two hundred of them were working hard day and night. There never was a murmur. There never was a protest. But, since field clerks are, after all, human they entertained a theory to the effect that they should, from time to time, be promoted. So occasionally papers of recommendation would be forwarded to the Adjutant General's office at ——. Invariably they were returned marked "Disapproved." Why? The man recommended for promotion was a field clerk.

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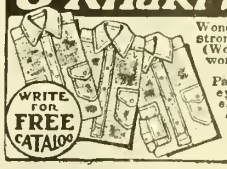

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Finally a protest was made by the field clerks to the commanding general. The answer—in the form of a memo—was brief and to the point: "The position of army field clerk is not a royal road to a commission."

That was a bombshell. Nobody said much. But every field clerk for miles around was informed, and everybody immediately resolved to get revenge. I was a field clerk, and I got a very real thrill out of the aftermath to that insult. From dawn to dewy eve on October 1, 1918, the adjutant general (a colonel) was engaged fixing up his recommendations for a brigadiership. He had been O. K.'d by everyone. Presently his precious papers left—for Chaumont. At Chaumont they were received by—a field clerk! Were they brought to the attention of the C. G?

They were *not*. The field clerk had our friend's number. He took those papers, did them up into a neat little bundle and filed them away where they were as safe as old Tut-ankh-Amen down in Egypt. While the dust was collecting the Armistice came, along with an order from Washington that there be no more promotions. And so it came to pass that the adjutant general returned to these United States a colonel—and I guess he's been retired as one.—ECK MILLER, *Arrowhead Springs, Calif.*

An Undress Affair

DOWN in compartment G-4, near the vitals of the vast ship on which we were racing toward France, there was a shower bath. It wasn't a very good one, but 'twas enough.

One evening, for want of something better to do, I proceeded to take a bath. While my hair was full of phosphorescence and my mind full of submarines, there came to my ears (that were full of salt) the sound of a cannon's boom. The submarine had arrived. We were being attacked! In a few moments the ship would go scooting toward the bottom, and here was I—far below the upper deck in a bath!

I did not dress with great care. I did not dress at all. I simply hurled myself in my breeches, threw on my life preserver and started for the nearest boats—far, far away. I expected to find confusion—excitement—a near panic as the men rushed to their stations. But all was quiet. The first soldiers I met were en route to their bunks. Then I learned that a movie was in progress in the mess room just above me and a mess-table, unable to stand the strain imposed upon it by a dozen doughboys, had crashed.—JAMES R. VANCE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Ho, Oregonians

THE State Legislature of Oregon has just voted to extend the time limit for applications for state cash compensation to veterans until December 31, 1923. This will enable many veterans who failed to file applications before June, 1922, the time limit provided in the original bill, to collect this money.

Payment of fifteen dollars for each month of war service is made to men or women who at the time of entering the service were residents of Oregon. Application forms and full information about loan privilege and other provisions of the bill may be obtained by writing the World War Veterans' Aid Commission, Salem, Oregon.

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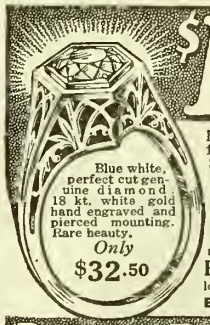
New Invention Aids Thousands

Here's good news for all who suffer from deafness. The Dictograph Products Corporation announces the perfection of a remarkable device which has enabled thousands of deaf persons to hear as well as ever. The makers of this wonderful device say it is too much to expect you to believe this so they are going to give you a chance to try it at home. They offer to send it by prepaid parcel post on a ten-day free trial. They do not send it C. O. D.—they require no deposit—there is no obligation.

They send it entirely at their own expense and risk. They are making this extraordinary offer well knowing that the magic of this little instrument will so amaze and delight the user that the chances of its being returned are very slight. Thousands have already accepted this offer and report most gratifying results. There's no longer any need that you should endure the mental and physical strain which comes from a constant effort to hear. Now you can mingle with your friends without that feeling of sensitiveness from which all deaf persons suffer. Now you can take your place in the social and business world to which your talents entitle you and from which your affliction has, in a measure, excluded you. Just send your name and address to The Dictograph Products Corporation, 1391 Candler Building, New York, for descriptive literature and request blank. Adv.

$1 Brings This Genuine DIAMOND



Easy for you to own this beautiful ring or give it as a present. Simply send $1. *Examine ring on arrival.* If you don't agree it is an *amazing bargain*, your deposit will be returned. If you keep it, pay postman only $1 and send $1 a week until $32.50 is paid. *Guarantee Diamond Bond* with each ring.

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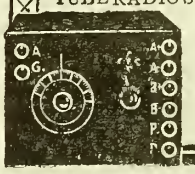

Don't Delay.

Write today for FREE Radio Plan.

HOME SUPPLY CO.
131 Duane St.
Dept. 914 New York

GUARANTEE

Our guarantee states that tuition will be refunded to you if, upon graduation, position is not obtained, paying at least $110 per mo. and expenses.

BE A RAILWAY TRAFFIC INSPECTOR

EARN up to $250 PER MONTH

Expenses paid; in this important profession. Unusual chances for advancement thru contact with railway executives. Field uncrowded; *we have more positions than we can fill.* Travel or remain near home; steady interesting work.

You Can Quickly Qualify

for positions starting at $110 per mo. and more, expenses paid. Prepare at home in spare time; position waiting for you. *Read Guarantee Notice at top.*

Don't delay—send coupon *today* for free Booklet No. D-51.

Standard Business Training Inst.
Buffalo, N. Y.

Send me, entirely free, Booklet No. D-51 giving full particulars about course in Railway Traffic Inspection.

Name.....
Street.....
City.....

The Croix de Coupon has been awarded by Buddy in the Barrel to the following advertiser for extraordinary service to the readers of our Weekly over a period of three and one-half years:

Lacey & Lacey, Washington, D. C.—Over and above the call to duty, this firm in the year 1919 advanced into our advertising columns with a small force of 14 lines. Showing utter disregard for their own pocketbook, they kept their copy in our publication in the early days of our history, when magazine after magazine fell upon the Battlefields of Hard-Times, and when our own position was none too strong. In the face of much opposition and adversity, they held to these 14 lines for a long siege. In so doing they have afforded other advertisers an example of exceptional far sightedness, and belief in the loyalty to our advertisers of the three-quarters of a million reader-owners of our Weekly.

Lacey & Lacey

AWARDED THE CROIX DE COUPON

Many readers of our Weekly know the pleasure of wearing an honor medal, a croix de quelque chose or cross de sompen. Buddy in the Barrel himself has been decorated by a French general and smacked on both whiskers. Foch and Haig and Pershing and George and Albert have pinned 'em on beaucoup coupon contributors.

Comes a time when one of our advertisers, Lacey & Lacey, Washington, D. C., is to be further honored as a consistent advertiser who stuck by the sales guns in our Weekly. You have no doubt noticed during the past several months that the stripes opposite the name of this firm in our directory have been increasing. Perhaps you remember that six was the limit which you could earn for service with Uncle Sam. By that time the guerre was fini, and you had been decorated with your discharge papers. And you've been wondering what would happen when it came time to give a seventh service stripe!

Buddy himself did not know what to award when the seventh stripe fell due. After much consultation and deliberation with the dotted-line skirmishers, he decided to make the seventh stripe a citation—and to call the new decoration the Croix de Coupon, with a star indicative of seven service stripes.

Their long service in our Weekly entitles Lacey & Lacey to this citation speech, or write-up, by Buddy himself, and he asks that you be at attention while this honor advertiser passes in review.

Buddy wishes this concern many more honors—the Croix de Coupon with many more stars and many more stripes.

And he hopes to pin medals on many other advertisers who will come to rate this award through three and one-half years of continuous advertising in our columns.

Lacey & Lacey is one of the oldest patent concerns in the United States, or even in the world.

The record of this firm is over fifty years of active and continuous practice as patent lawyers and solicitors.

Thousands of individual inventors, firms, and companies have employed them in that time.

The senior member of the firm of Lacey & Lacey has said to Buddy:

"The American Legion Weekly is the best medium we have ever used, and we have used a great many. Our advertisement in your columns not only brings the inquiries, and lots of them, but the inquiries are followed by real business in large volume. The results are indeed marvelous, and, after all, results are the only actual test of any proposition.

"No other business transaction deserves more earnest attention than the patenting of a good invention, and he who starts out with the idea that a patent will protect his rights and prove of full money value, no matter HOW the application for that patent is prepared and prosecuted, does not know what he is about, and failure is practically certain.

"As the Patent Office will neither act as your attorney nor as your guardian, and has again and again brought to the attention of inventors the importance of employing competent patent attorneys, the reputation of those you may contemplate employing should have first consideration.

"Above every other consideration affecting their rights and interests, we want to impress upon inventors and manufacturers that it is our rigid rule to fight every case to the last ditch, for every allowable claim."

Mr. Lacey states that in many cases ex-service men have come to their office to transact their business—and they are always welcome. The advertisement in our Weekly is an all-sufficient introduction, and insures a hearty welcome.

OUR DIRECTORY of ADVERTISERS

These Advertisers support us—Let's reciprocate. And tell them so by saying, when you write—"I saw your ad in our AMERICAN LEGION WEEKLY." Or tell the same thing to the salesman or dealer from whom you buy their products.

*"BE IT RESOLVED, that with a firm belief in the value of our magazine—*THE AMERICAN LEGION WEEKLY*—as a national advertising medium; with the realization that due to limited subscription price and constantly increasing cost of production, the improvements which we desire to see in it will only be made possible through increased advertising revenue—and that increased advertising revenue depends primarily upon our support of advertisers in the* WEEKLY*—we hereby pledge our support and our patronage, as individuals, and as an organization, to those advertisers who use the columns of our official magazine—*THE AMERICAN LEGION WEEKLY."

Resolution passed unanimously at the Second National Convention of The American Legion.

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- Chevrolet Motor Co.
- VVVVVElectric Storage Battery Co.
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- VG. & C. Merriam Co. 27
- VVNelson Doubleday, Inc.

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- American Floor Surfacing Machine Co. 23
- VVVVAmerican Products Co. 30
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- VCofield Tire Protector Co. 19
- VVFyr Fyter Co. 29
- VHolcomb & Hoke Co.
- VVJennings Mfg. Co. 24
- Kingery Mfg. Co. 30
- VVMac-O-Chee Mills 28
- VVMadison Shirt Co. 30
- Opportunities 28
- VVVPacker Mfg. Co. 28
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- VVVFlour City Ornamental Iron Co. 28
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LET'S PATRONIZE THEY ADVERTISE

V SERVICE STRIPE—AWARDED ADVERTISERS WITH US REGULARLY FOR OVER SIX MONTHS. THE VVV, VVVV, VVVVV AND VVVVVV STRIPERS ARE INCREASING. NOTICE THE ★. THIS IS THE INSIGNIA FOR THE CROIX DE COUPON, AWARDED WHEN THE SEVENTH SERVICE STRIPE IS DUE.

We do not knowingly accept false or fraudulent advertising, or any advertising of an objectionable nature. See "Our Platform," issue of December 22, 1922. Readers are requested to report promptly any failure on the part of an advertiser to make good any representation contained in an advertisement in THE AMERICAN LEGION WEEKLY.

Advertising rates: $3.00 per agate line. Smallest copy accepted, 14 lines (1 inch). THE ADVERTISING MANAGER, 627 West 43d Street, N. Y. City.

THEY ADVERTISE LET'S PATRONIZE

Complete 48-Piece Dinner Set

6 Dinner Plates
6 Salad Plates
6 Cups
6 Saucers
6 Soup Plates
6 Butter Dishes
6 Sauce Dishes
1 Cream Pitcher
1 Sugar Bowl and Cover (2 pieces)
1 9-inch Vegetable Dish
1 12-inch Meat Platter
1 Gravy Bowl

Every piece made of beautiful snow-white ware and beautifully decorated with wide gold band. **This set is guaranteed first quality; no "seconds."**

Free Luncheon Set

This beautiful Luncheon Set consists of a table cover measuring 36 inches in diameter with scalloped edge deeply embroidered in dark blue silk thread. Also six doilies each 12 inches in diameter with scalloped and embroidered edge same as table cover. This is an exceptionally fine Luncheon Set made of fine "Indian Head" Linen of snowy whiteness and fine texture—a set that you will be proud to own. The doilies can be used as napkins if desired. Washes and launders beautifully. Don't miss this chance to get this elegant Luncheon Set **Free.**

No Money Down—Shipped Prepaid

Just send the coupon and Stanley-Rogers will ship this splendid, complete 48-piece Dinner Set, all charges prepaid, on *30 Days' Free Trial.* With the set we will include the fine Luncheon Set consisting of table cover and six doilies ABSOLUTELY FREE. Make only the first payment of $2.95 when goods arrive. Then use the dishes and the Luncheon Set 30 days before deciding whether to keep or return them. If not satisfied, send all the goods back and we will refund your money and pay return transportation charges. If you keep the goods, pay a little each month for the Dinner Set only. You pay nothing for the Luncheon Set. It is yours—FREE.

48-Piece Dinner Set—Wide Gold Band

You must actually see this elegant Dinner Set to appreciate its beauty. The ware is of snowy whiteness with a deep gold band and gold traced handles that fairly glisten; the contrast between the pure white of the ware itself and the gleaming wide gold band giving a marvelously beautiful effect, such as found only in the costliest china. The set is complete with 48 full size pieces—complete service for six. Just think what a wonderful bargain Stanley-Rogers offer you in this wonderful set of dishes. And, in addition, without one cent of extra cost, you get the beautiful Luncheon Set of table cover and six doilies absolutely **free.** Send at once while this special offer holds good. Mail coupon today.

Order by No. 324ESR16. Price for Dinner Set, $14.95. No money down. Shipped prepaid. Pay only $2.95 on arrival. Balance $3.00 monthly. Luncheon Set FREE.

STANLEY-ROGERS CO.

Dept. 7119 Copyright, 1923, by Stanley-Rogers, Chicago **145 W. 39th St., CHICAGO, ILL.**

Stanley-Rogers Co., Dept. 7119, 145 W. 39th St., Chicago

Send me complete and with all shipping charges prepaid, as advertised,

48-Piece Gold Band Dinner Set No. 324ESR16. $14.95

Also send with it the 7-piece Luncheon Set absolutely FREE. I will make first payment of $2.95 for the Dinner Set when goods arrive, and use it for 30 days on Free Trial. Then, if not satisfied, I will return all the articles received and you will refund my money and pay return transportation charges. Otherwise, I will pay $3 monthly until price of the Dinner Set, $14.95, is paid. Title remains with you until final payment is made.

Name..... Occupation.....

R. F. D., Box No.
or Street and No.....

Post Office..... State.....
(If your shipping point is different from your post office, fill in line below)

Send shipment to.....